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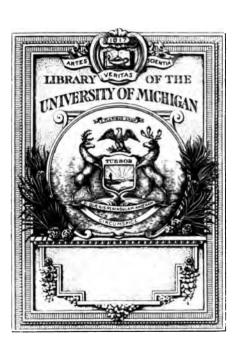
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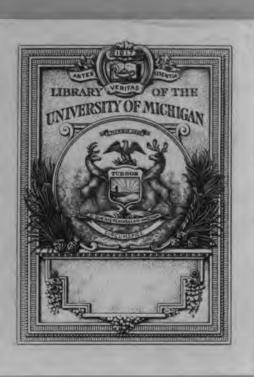
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EDITED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,

By ARTHUR SYMONS.



"I lie and dream of your full Mermaid wine."-Beaumont.

11.

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"What things have we seen
Done at the Mermaid! heard words that have been
So nimble, and so full of subtle flame,
As if that every one from whence they came
Had meant to put his whole wit in a jest,
And had resolved to live a fool the rest
Of his dull life."

Master Francis Beaumont to Ben Jonson



"Souls of Poets dead and gone, What Elysium have ye known, Happy field or mossy cavern, Choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?"

Keuts.



LONDON:

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PREFACE.



HE text of the five plays contained in this volume is founded directly on the original editions. These have been carefully collated with Gifford's second edi-

tion of Massinger. Gifford's notions of textual fidelity were rather lax, notwithstanding his solemn protests to the contrary. Many of his alterations, indeed, are in themselves of little importance; but others, now for the first time corrected back again, are of really serious significance. One or two specimen instances are given in the footnotes to the present edition.

My best thanks are due to Mr. S. W. Orson, who has collated the plays for me from the copies in the British Museum. I am also indebted to him for some useful suggestions, and for reading the proofs.

ARTHUR SYMONS.



JOHN LOWIN.



HE actor whose portrait—originally painted in 1640—is prefixed to this volume enjoyed a high reputation during the first forty years of the seventeenth century. John Lowin, son of Richard Lowin, a carpenter residing in St. Giles's, Cripplegate, was born in 1576. Of his early life and education we have no record;

but in 1602 he was one of Henslowe's company at the Fortune Theatre in Golden Lane. Soon after his marriage, in 1607, Lowin joined the King's Players, and at once became one of the principal members. In Wright's Historia Histrionica (1600) Old Trueman says: "In my time, before the wars, Lowin used to act with mighty applause Falstaff, Morose, Volpone, Mammon in The Alchemist, and Melantius in The Maid's Tracedy." Other characters undertaken by him were Eubulus in Massinger's Picture. Domitian in The Roman Actor, and Flaminius in Believe as You List; Bosola in The Duchess of Malfi, and Belleur in The Wild Goose Chase. He also appeared in many of Shakespeare's plays, his name being included in the list of actors given in the First Folio; and in the induction to Marston's Malcontent he and others come upon the stage and speak in their own persons. It is clear from a couplet in Gill's abusive verses on Ben Jonson (see The Magnetic Lady) that the two actors there mentioned were reckoned the best performers on the stage in 1632:-

> "Let Lowin cease, and Taylor fear to touch The loathed stage, for thou hast made it such."

On the suppression of stage-plays and interludes by the Puritan party at the time of the breaking out of the great Civil War, Lowin, like many of his fellows, was reduced to poverty. He kept the Three Pigeons inn at Brentford for some years, and, according to Malone, died at the age of eighty-three, being interred in the graveyard of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, March 18, 1658-9.

S. W. O.



THE ROMAN ACTOR.



Mass. II.





HE ROMAN ACTOR was licensed by Sir Henry Herbert, October 11, 1626, and printed in quarto in 1629. The titlepage of the first and only old edition runs: "The Roman Actor. A Tragædie. As it hath divers times beene, with good allowance Acted, at the private Play-

house in the Black-Friers, by the Kings Majesties Servants. Written by Philip Massinger. London. Printed by B. A. and T. F. for Robert Allot, and are to be sold at his shop at the signe of the Beare in Pauls Church-yard. 1629." The historical part of the plot is founded upon the life of Domitian in Suetonius, with additional particulars from Dio Cassius, and at least one rectification from Martial. Gifford states that the play was revived by Betterton, who was very successful in the part of Paris; and that it was again brought on the stage, with some alteration, in 1722.





To my much honoured and most true Friends,

SIR PHILIP KNYVET, KNIGHT AND BARONET,
AND TO SIR THOMAS JEAY, KNIGHT,
AND THOMAS BELLINGHAM,
of Newtimber, in Sussex, Esquire.



OW much I acknowledge myself bound for your so many and extraordinary favours conferred upon me, as far as it is in my power, posterity shall take notice: I were most unworthy of such noble friends, if I should not, with all thankfulness, profess and own them. In the composition of this Tragedy you were my only supporters and it being now by your prince.

porters, and it being now by your principal encouragement to be turned into the world, it cannot walk safer than under your protection. It hath been happy in the suffrage of some learned and judicious gentlemen when it was presented, nor shall they find cause, I hope, in the perusal, to repent them of their good opinion of it. If the gravity and height of the subject distaste such as are only affected with jigs and ribaldry (as I presume it will), their condemnation of me and my poem can no way offend me: my reason teaching me, such malicious and ignorant detractors deserve rather contempt than satisfaction. I ever held it the most perfect birth of my Minerva; and therefore in justice offer it to those that have best deserved of me; who, I hope, in their courteous acceptance will render it worth their receiving, and ever, in their gentle construction of thy imperfections, believe they may at their pleasure dispose of him, that is wholly and sincerely

Devoted to their service,
PHILIP MASSINGER.



DOMITIANUS CÆSAR.

PARIS, the Roman Actor.

ÆLIUS LAMIA,
JUNIUS RUSTICUS,
PALPHURIUS SURA,
FULCINIUS,
PARTHENIUS, CÆSAR'S Freedman.

ARETINUS CLEMENS, CÆSAR'S Spy.
STEPHANOS, DOMITILLA'S Freedman.

ÆSOPUS,
LATINUS,
PHILARGUS, a rich Miser; Father of PARTHENIUS.

ASCLETARIO, an Astrologer.

SEJEIUS,
ENTELLUS,
Conspirators.

DOMITIA, Wife of ÆLIUS LAMIA.

DOMITILLA, Cousin-german to CÆSAR.

JULIA, Daughter of TITUS.

CÆNIS, VESPASIAN'S Concubine.

A Lady.

Tribunes, Lictors, Centurions, Soldiers, Hangmen, Servants, Captives.

SCENE-ROME.





THE ROMAN ACTOR.

ACT THE FIRST.

SCENE I .- The Theatre.

Enter Paris, Latinus, and Æsopus.

ESOP. What do we act to-day?

Lat. Agave's frenzy,

With Pentheus' bloody end.

Par. It skills not ' what;

The times are dull, and all that we receive

Will hardly satisfy the day's expense.

The Greeks, to whom we owe the first invention Both of the buskined scene and humble sock, That reign in every noble family, Declaim against us; and our amphitheatre, Great Pompey's work, that hath given full delight Both to the eye and ear of fifty thousand Spectators in one day, as if it were Some unknown desert, or great Rome unpeopled, Is quite forsaken.

Lat. Pleasures of worse natures
Are gladly entertained; and they that shun us,
Practise, in private, sports the stews would blush at.

¹ Matters not.

A litter borne by eight Liburnian slaves. To buy diseases from a glorious 1 strumpet. The most censorious of our Roman gentry, Nay, of the guarded robe,2 the senators, Esteem an easy purchase.

Par. Yet grudge us,

That with delight join profit, and endeavour To build their minds up fair, and on the stage Decipher to the life what honours wait On good and glorious actions, and the shame That treads upon the heels of vice, the salary Of six sestertii.

Æsop. For the profit, Paris, And mercenary gain, they are things beneath us; Since, while you hold your grace and power with Cæsar, We, from your bounty, find a large supply, Nor can one thought of want ever approach us.

Par. Our aim is glory, and to leave our names To aftertimes.

Lat. And, would they give us leave, There ends all our ambition.

Æsop. We have enemies, And great ones too, I fear. 'Tis given out lately, The consul Aretinus, Cæsar's spy, Said at his table, ere a month expired, For being galled in our last comedy, He'd silence us for ever.

Par. I expect

No favour from him; my strong Aventine 3 is, That great Domitian, whom we oft have cheered In his most sullen moods, will once return, Who can repair, with ease, the consul's ruins.

¹ Vain-glorious (Lat., gloriosus).
² The tunic with purple stripe (laticlave) worn by senaters. 3 Security. Compare Beaumont and Fletcher, The Double

Marriage, v. 2:-. Ferrand fled too. And with small strength, into the castle's tower, The only Aventine that now is left him."

Lat. 'Tis frequent 1 in the city, he hath subdued The Catti and the Daci, and, ere long, The second time will enter Rome in triumph.

Enter two Lictors.

Par. Jove hasten it! With us?—I now believe The consul's threats, Æsopus.

1st Lict. You are summoned

To appear to-day in Senate.

2nd Lict. And there to answer

What shall be urged against you.

Par. We obey you.

Nay, droop not, fellows; innocence should be bold.

We, that have personated in the scene

The ancient heroes, and the falls of princes,

With loud applause, being to act ourselves,

Must do it with undaunted confidence.

Whate'er our sentence be, think 'tis in sport;

And, though condemned, let's hear it without sorrow,

As if we were to live again to-morrow.

1st Lict. 'Tis spoken like yourself.

Enter ÆLIUS LAMIA, JUNIUS RUSTICUS, and PAL-PHURIUS SURA.

Lam. Whither goes Paris?

1st Lict. He's cited to the Senate.

Lat. I am glad the state is

So free from matters of more weight and trouble,

That it has vacant time to look on us.

Par. That reverend place, in which the affairs of kings And provinces were determined, to descend

To the censure of a bitter word, or jest,

Dropped from a poet's pen! Peace to your lordships!

We are glad that you are safe.

[Exeunt Lictors, Paris, Latinus, and Æsopus. Lam. What times are these!

¹ Currently reported.

To what is Rome fallen! may we, being alone, Speak our thoughts freely of the prince and state, And not fear the informer?

Rust. Noble Lamia,
So dangerous the age is, and such bad acts
Are practised everywhere, we hardly sleep,
Nay, cannot dream with safety. All our actions
Are called in question; to be nobly born
Is now a crime; and to deserve too well,
Held capital treason. Sons accuse their fathers,
Fathers their sons; and, but to win a smile
From one in grace at court, our chastest matrons
Make shipwreck of their honours. To be virtuous
Is to be guilty. They are only safe
That know to soothe the prince's appetite,
And serve his lusts.

Sura. 'Tis true; and 'tis my wonder,
That two sons of so different a nature
Should spring from good Vespasian. We had a Titus,
Styled justly "the Delight of all Mankind,"
Who did esteem that day lost in his life
In which some one or other tasted not
Of his magnificent bounties; one that had
A ready tear, when he was forced to sign
The death of an offender; and so far
From pride that he disdained not the converse
Even of the poorest Roman.

Lam. Yet his brother,

Domitian, that now sways the power of things,
Is so inclined to blood that no day passes
In which some are not fastened to the hook,
Or thrown down from the Gemonies.¹ His freedmen ²
Scorn the nobility, and he himself.

¹ The Scalæ Gemoniæ, a precipice on the Aventine, where the bodies of state criminals were flung.

² The quarto edition invariably prints freeman and freemen throughout the play. Freeman and freedman were formerly interchangeable terms for libertus; both are given in Coles' Latin Dictionary; I have, therefore, followed Gifford in using the modern term.

As if he were not made of flesh and blood, Forgets he is a man.

Rust. In his young years,
He showed what he would be when grown to ripeness:
His greatest pleasure was, being a child,
With a sharp-pointed bodkin to kill flies,
Whose rooms now men supply. For his escape
In the Vitellian war, he raised a temple
To Jupiter, and proudly placed his figure
In the bosom of the god: and, in his edicts,
He does not blush, or start, to style himself
(As if the name of emperor were base)
Great Lord and God Domitian.

Sura. I have letters

He's on his way to Rome, and purposes
To enter with all glory. 'The flattering Senate
Decrees him divine honours; and to cross it,
Were death with studied torments:—for my part,
I will obey the time; it is in vain
To strive against the torrent.

Rust. Let's to the Curia, And, though unwillingly, give 1 our suffrages, Before we are compelled.

Lam. And since we cannot
With safety use the active, let's make use of
The passive fortitude, with this assurance,—
That the state, sick in him, the gods to friend,
Though at the worst, will now begin to mend. [Exeunt.



SCENE II.-A Room in Lamia's House.

Enter Domitia and Parthenius.

Dom. To me this reverence! Parth. I pay it, lady,

1 The quarto has "grieue."

As a debt due to her that's Cæsar's mistress:

For understand with joy, he that commands

All that the sun gives warmth to is your servant;

Be not amazed, but fit you to your fortunes.

Think upon state and greatness, and the honours

That wait upon Augusta, for that name

Ere long comes to you:—still you doubt your vassal—

[Presents a letter.]

But, when you've read this letter, writ and signed With his imperial hand, you will be freed From fear and jealousy; and, I beseech you, When all the beauties of the earth bow to you, And senators shall take it for an honour, As I do now, to kiss these happy feet;

When every smile you give is a preferment, And you dispose of provinces to your creatures, Think on Parthenius.

Dom. Rise. I am transported, And hardly dare believe what is assured here. The means, my good Parthenius, that wrought Cæsar, Our god on earth, to cast an eye of favour Upon his humble handmaid?

Parth. What but your beauty?
When Nature framed you for her masterpiece,
As the pure abstract of all rare in woman,
She had no other ends but to design you
To the most eminent place. I will not say
(For it would smell of arrogance, to insinuate
The service I have done you) with what zeal
I oft have made relation of your virtues,
Or how I've sung your goodness, or how Cæsar
Was fired with the relation of your story:
I am rewarded in the act, and happy
In that my project prospered.

Dom. You are modest; And, were it in my power, I would be thankful. If that, when I was mistress of myself, And, in my way of youth,¹ pure and untainted, The emperor had vouchsafed to seek my favours, I had with joy given up my virgin fort, At the first summons, to his soft embraces; But I am now another's, not mine own. You know I have a husband:—for my honour, I would not be his strumpet; and how law Can be dispensed with to become his wife, To me's a riddle.

Parth. I can soon resolve it:
When power puts in his plea the laws are silenced.
The world confesses one Rome, and one Cæsar,
And, as his rule is infinite, his pleasures
Are unconfined; this syllable, his will,
Stands for a thousand reasons.

Dom. But with safety,—
Suppose I should consent,—how can I do it?
My husband is a senator, of a temper
Not to be jested with.

Enter LAMIA.

Parth. As if he durst
Be Cæsar's rival!—here he comes; with ease
I will remove this scruple.

Lam. [Aside.] How! so private!

My own house made a brothel! Sir, how durst you,

Though guarded with your power in court, and greatness,
Hold conference with my wife? As for you, minion,

I shall hereafter treat—

Parth. You are rude and saucy Nor know to whom you speak.

Lam. This is fine, i' faith!²

¹ i.e. In my youth. Compare A Very Woman, iv. 2:—
"In way of youth I did enjoy one friend."

² Gifford, without note or warning, adds, "Is she not my wife?" This is a needless addition. Parthenius' expression, "Your wife!" refers to "Hold conference with my wife?" just above.

Parth. Your wife! But touch her, that respect forgotten That's due to her whom mightiest Cæsar favours, And think what 'tis to die. Not to lose time, She's Cæsar's choice: it is sufficient honour You were his taster in this heavenly nectar, But now must quit the office.

Lam. This is rare!

Cannot a man be master of his wife,

Because she's young and fair, without a patent?

I in mine own house am an emperor,

And will defend what's mine. Where are my knaves?

If such an insolence escape unpunished—

Parth. In yourself, Lamia.—Cæsar hath forgot
To use his power, and I, his instrument,
In whom, though absent, his authority speaks,
Have lost my faculties!

[Stamps.

Enter a Centurion with Soldiers.

Designed for death?

Dom. As you desire my favour,
Take not so rough a course.

Parth. All your desires
Are absolute commands. Yet give me leave
To put the will of Cæsar into act.
Here's a bill of divorce between your lordship
And this great lady: if you refuse to sign it,
And so as if you did it uncompelled,
Won to't by reasons that concern yourself,
Her honour too untainted, here are clerks
Shall in your best blood write it new, till torture

Lam. The guard! why, am I

Compel you to perform it. Lam. Is this legal?

Parth. Monarchs that dare not do unlawful things, Yet bear them out, are constables, not kings. Will you dispute?

Lam. I know not what to urge

Against myself, but too much dotage on her, 'Love, and observance.

Parth. Set it under your hand
That you are impotent, and cannot pay
The duties of a husband; or that you are mad;
Rather than want just cause, we'll make you so.
Dispatch, you know the danger else;—deliver it,—
Nay, on your knee.—Madam, you are now free,
And mistress of yourself.

Lam. Can you, Domitia, Consent to this?

Dom. 'Twould argue a base mind
To live a servant, when I may command.
I'now am Cæsar's: and yet, in respect
I once was yours, when you come to the palace,
Provided you deserve it in your service,
You shall find me your good mistress. Wait me, Parthenius;
And now farewell, poor Lamia! [Exeunt all but Lamia.
Lam. To the gods

I bend my knees (for tyranny hath banished Justice from men), and as they would deserve Their altars, and our vows, humbly invoke them, That this my ravished wife may prove as fatal To proud Domitian, and her embraces Afford him, in the end, as little joy, As wanton Helen brought to him of Troy.

Exit.



SCENE III.—The Curia or Senate-house.

Enter Lictors, Aretinus, Fulcinius, Rusticus, Sura, Paris, Latinus, and Æsopus.

Aret. Fathers conscript, may this our meeting be Happy to Cæsar and the commonwealth!

Lict. Silence!

Aret. The purpose of this frequent Senate¹ Is. first, to give thanks to the gods of Rome, That, for the propagation of the empire, Vouchsafe us one to govern it, like themselves. In height of courage, depth of understanding, And all those virtues, and remarkable graces, Which make a prince most eminent, our Domitian Transcends the ancient Romans: I can never Bring his praise to a period. What good man That is a friend to truth, dares make it doubtful That he hath Fabius' staidness, and the courage Of bold Marcellus, to whom Hannibal gave The style 2 of Target, and the Sword of Rome? But he has more, and every touch more Roman; As Pompey's dignity, Augustus' state, Antony's bounty, and great Julius' fortune, With Cato's resolution. I am lost In the ocean of his virtues: in a word. All excellencies of good men in him meet, But no part of their vices.

Rust. This is no flattery! Sura. Take heed, you'll be observed.

Aret. 'Tis then most fit

That we, (as 3 to the father of our country, Like thankful sons, stand bound to pay true service For all those blessings that he showers upon us,) Should not connive, and see his government Depraved and scandalized by meaner men, That to his favour and indulgence owe Themselves and being.

Par. Now he points at us. Aret. Cite Paris, the tragedian.

Par. Here.

Aret. Stand forth.

¹ i.e. Senatus frequens, a full house.

³ i.e. "Who, as," &c.

In thee, as being the chief of thy profession, I do accuse the quality 1 of treason, As libellers against the state and Cæsar.

Par. Mere accusations are not proofs, my lord: In what are we delinquents?

Aret. You are they
That search into the secrets of the time,
And, under feigned names, on the stage, present
Actions not to be touched at; and traduce
Persons of rank and quality of both sexes,
And, with satirical and bitter jests,
Make even the senators ridiculous
To the plebeians.

Par. If I free not myself,
And, in myself, the rest of my profession,
From these false imputations, and prove
That they make that a libel which the poet
Writ for a comedy, so acted too,
It is but justice that we undergo
The heaviest censure.

Aret. Are you on the stage, You talk so boldly?

Par. The whole world being one,
This place is not exempted: and I am
So confident in the justice of our cause,
That I could wish Cæsar, in whose great name
All kings are comprehended, sat as judge,
To hear our plea, and then determine of us.
If to express a man sold to his lusts,
Wasting the treasure of his time and fortunes
In wanton dalliance, and to what sad end
A wretch that's so given over does arrive at;
Deterring careless youth, by his example,
From such licentious courses; laying open
The snares of bawds, and the consuming arts

Quality, meaning profession, was at this time the technical word for players—as, I believe, the modern equivalent still is.

Of prodigal strumpets, can deserve reproof; Why are not all your golden principles, Writ down by grave philosophers to instruct us To choose fair virtue for our guide, not pleasure, Condemned unto the fire?

Sura. There's spirit in this.

Par. Or if desire of honour was the base On which the building of the Roman empire Was raised up to this height; if to inflame The noble youth with an ambitious heat To endure the frosts of danger, nay, of death, To be thought worthy the triumphal wreath By glorious undertakings, may deserve Reward or favour from the commonwealth: Actors may put in for as large a share As all the sects of the philosophers: They with cold precepts (perhaps seldom read) Deliver what an honourable thing The active virtue is: but does that fire The blood, or swell the veins with emulation. To be both good and great, equal to that Which is presented on our theatres? Let a good actor, in a lofty scene, Show great Alcides honoured in the sweat Of his twelve labours; or a bold Camillus, Forbidding Rome to be redeemed with gold From the insulting Gauls; or Scipio, After his victories, imposing tribute On conquered Carthage: if done to the life, As if they saw their dangers, and their glories, And did partake with them in their rewards, All that have any spark of Roman in them, The slothful arts laid by, contend to be Like those they see presented.

Rust. He has put The consuls to their whisper.

¹ State, express.

Par. But 'tis urged That we corrupt youth, and traduce superiors. When do we bring a vice upon the stage. That does go off unpunished? Do we teach, By the success of wicked undertakings, Others to tread in their forbidden steps? We show no arts of Lydian panderism. Corinthian poisons, Persian flatteries, But mulcted so in the conclusion that Even those spectators that were so inclined Go home changed men. And, for traducing such That are above us, publishing to the world Their secret crimes, we are as innocent As such as are born dumb. When we present An heir that does conspire against the life Of his dear parent, numbering every hour He lives, as tedious to him; if there be, Among the auditors, one whose conscience tells him He is of the same mould,—we cannot help it.1 Or, bringing on the stage a loose adulteress, That does maintain the riotous expense Of him that feeds her greedy lust, yet suffers The lawful pledges of a former bed To starve the while for hunger; if a matron, However great in fortune, birth, or titles, Guilty of such a foul unnatural sin, Cry out, 'Tis writ by 2 me,—we cannot help it. Or, when a covetous man's expressed, whose wealth Arithmetic cannot number, and whose lordships

¹ Here, and lower down, Gifford eked out the emphasis with small capitals, a device for which he had no authority in the original quarto.

quarto.

2 Gifford reads "for," but compare Merchant of Venice, ii. 9:—

". . That many may be meant

By the fool multitude. And Ben Jonson, Poetaster, v. 1:—

[&]quot;Is not that eagle meant by Cæsar?"

See Abbott's Shak. Gram., under "By."
Mass. II.

A falcon in one day cannot fly over; Yet he so sordid in his mind, so griping, As not to afford himself the necessaries To maintain life; if a patrician, (Though honoured with a consulship,) find himself Touched to the quick in this.—we cannot help it. Or, when we show a judge that is corrupt. And will give up his sentence as he favours The person. not the cause: saving the guilty. If of his faction, and as oft condemning The innocent, out of particular spleen: If any in this reverend assembly, Nay, e'en yourself, my lord, that are the image Of absent Cæsar, feel something in your bosom, That puts you in remembrance of things past. Or things intended,—'tis not in us to help it. I have said, my lord: and now, as you find cause. Or censure us, or free us with applause.

Lat. Well pleaded, on my life! I never saw him Act an orator's part before.

Æsop. We might have given Ten double fees to Regulus, and vet Our cause delivered worse.

A shout with

Enter PARTHENIUS.

Aret. What shout is that?

Parth. Cæsar, our lord, married to conquest, is Returned in triumph.

Ful. Let's all haste to meet him.

Aret. Break up the court; we will reserve to him The censure of this cause

All. Long life to Cæsar!

Exeu



SCENE IV .- The Approach to the Capitol.

Enter Julia, Cænis, Domitilla, and Domitia.

Canis. Stand back—the place is mine.

Jul. Yours! Am I not

Great Titus' daughter, and Domitian's niece?

Dares any claim precedence?

Canis. I was more,—

The mistress of your father, and, in his right, Claim duty from you.

Jul. I confess you were useful

To please his appetite.

Dom. To end the controversy,

For I'll have no contending, I'll be bold To lead the way myself.

Domitil. You, minion!

Dom. Yes:

And all, ere long, shall kneel to catch my favours.

Jul. Whence springs this flood of greatness?

Dom. You shall know

Too soon, for your vexation, and perhaps

Repent too late, and pine with envy, when

You see whom Cæsar favours.

Jul. Observe the sequel.

Enter Captains with laurels, Domitian in his triumphant chariot, Parthenius, Paris, Latinus, and Æsopus, met by Aretinus, Sura, Lamia, Rusticus, Fulcinius, Soldiers and Captives.

Cas. As we now touch the height of human glory, Riding in triumph to the Capitol,
Let these, whom this victorious arm hath made
The scorn of fortune, and the slaves of Rome,
Taste the extremes of misery. Bear them off
To the common prisons, and there let them prove
How sharp our axes are.

[Exeunt Soldiers with Captives.

Rust. A bloody entrance!

[As

Cas. To tell you you are happy in your prince,
Were to distrust your love, or my desert;
And either were distasteful: or to boast
How much, not by my deputies, but myself,
I have enlarged the empire; or what horrors
The soldier, in our conduct, hath broke through,
Would better suit the mouth of Plautus' braggart,
Than the adored monarch of the world.

Sura. This is no boast!

[As

Cas. When I but name the Daci,
And gray-eyed Germans, whom I have subdued,
The ghost of Julius will look pale with envy,
And great Vespasian's and Titus' triumph,
(Truth must take place of father and of brother,)
Will be no more remembered. I am above
All honours you can give me; and the style
Of Lord and God, which thankful subjects give me,
Not my ambition, is deserved.

Aret. At all parts Celestial sacrifice is fit for Cæsar, In our acknowledgment.

Cas. Thanks, Aretinus;
Still hold our favour. Now, the god of war,
And famine, blood, and death, Bellona's pages,
Banished from Rome to Thrace, in our good fortune,
With justice he may taste the fruits of peace
Whose sword hath ploughed the ground, and reaped
harvest

Of your prosperity. Nor can I think That there is one among you so ungrateful, Or such an enemy to thriving virtue, That can esteem the jewel he holds dearest Too good for Cæsar's use.

Sura. All we possess— Lam. Our liberties— Ful. Our childrenParth. Wealth-

Aret. And throats,

Fall willingly beneath his feet.

Rust. [Aside.] Base flattery!

What Roman can endure this!

Cæs. This calls on

My love to all, which spreads itself among you.

The beauties of the time! [Seeing the ladies.] Receive the honour

To kiss the hand which, reared up thus, holds thunder;

To you 'tis an assurance of a calm.

Julia, my niece, and Cænis, the delight

Of old Vespasian; Domitilla, too,

A princess of our blood.

Rust. 'Tis strange his pride

Affords no greater courtesy to ladies

Of such high birth and rank.

Sura. Your wife's forgotten.

Lam. No, she will be remembered, fear it not;

She will be graced, and greased.

Cas. But, when I look on

Divine Domitia, methinks we should meet

(The lesser gods applauding the encounter)

As Jupiter, the Giants lying dead

On the Phlegræan plain, embraced his Juno.

Lamia, it is your honour that she's mine.

Lam. You are too great to be gainsaid.

Cæs. Let all

That fear our frown, or do affect our favour,

Without examining the reason why,

Salute her (by this kiss I make it good)

With the title of Augusta.

Dom. Still your servant.

All. Long live Augusta, great Domitian's empress!

Cas. Paris, my hand.

Par. [Kissing it.] The gods still honour Cæsar!

Cas. The wars are ended, and, our arms laid by,

We are for soft delights. Command the poets To use their choicest and most rare invention To entertain the time, and be you careful To give it action: we'll provide the people Pleasures of all kinds.—My Domitia, think not I flatter, though thus fond.—On to the Capitol: 'Tis death to him that wears a sullen brow. This 'tis to be a monarch, when alone He can command all, but is awed by none.

Exc





ACT THE SECOND.

SCENE I.-An Inner Court in the Palace.1

Enter PHILARGUS in rags, and PARTHENIUS.



HIL. My son to tutor me! Know your obedience,
And question not my will.

Parth. Sir, were I one
Whom want compelled to wish a full possession
Of what is yours; or had I even numbered

Your years,² or thought you lived too long, with reason You then might nourish ill opinions of me: Or did the suit that I prefer to you Concern myself, and aimed not at your good, You might deny, and I sit down with patience, And after never press you.

Phil. I' the name of Pluto,
What wouldst thou have me do?
Path. Right to yourself;
Or suffer me to do it. Can you imagine
This nasty hat, this tattered cloak, rent shoe,
This sordid linen, can become the master
Of your fair fortunes? whose superfluous means,
Though I were burthensome, could clothe you in
The costliest Persian silks, studded with jewels,

² Gifford compares Ovid's patrios inquirere in annos, and the

speech of Paris above, p. 17.

¹ Gifford has "A State Room in the Palace." But it is a place overlooked by windows, to one of which Domitia presently comes and sings.

The spoils of provinces, and every day Fresh change of Tyrian purple.

Phil. Out upon thee!

My moneys in my coffers melt to hear thee.

Purple! hence, prodigal! Shall I make my mercer

Or tailor my heir, or see my jeweller purchase?

No, I hate pride.

Parth. Yet decency would do well.
Though, for your outside, you will not be altered,
Let me prevail so far yet, as to win you
Not to deny your belly nourishment;
Neither to think you've feasted, when 'tis crammed
With mouldy barley-bread, onions and leeks,
And the drink of bondmen, water.

Phil. Wouldst thou have me Be an Apicius or a Lucullus, And riot out my state in curious sauces? Wise nature with a little is contented; And, following her, my guide, I cannot err.

Parth. But you destroy her in your want of care (I blush to see, and speak it) to maintain her In perfect health and vigour; when you suffer—Frighted with the charge of physic—rheums, catarrhs, The scurf, ache in your bones, to grow upon you, And hasten on your fate with too much sparing: When a cheap purge, a vomit, and good diet, May lengthen it. Give me but leave to send The emperor's doctor to you.

Phil. I'll be borne first,
Half-rotten, to the fire that must consume me!
His pills, his cordials, his electuaries,
His syrups, juleps, bezoar stone,
nor his
Imagined unicorn's horn, comes in my belly;
My mouth shall be a draught first, 'tis resolved.

¹ A syrupy medicine.

² "Bezoar, a precious stone, very cordial."—Cole, Latin Dictionary. It is the concretion sometimes found in the intestines of ruminant animals.

No; I'll not lessen my dear golden heap,
Which, every hour increasing, does renew
My youth and vigour; but, if lessened, then,
Then my poor heart-strings crack. Let me enjoy it,
And brood o'er 't, while I live, it being my life,
My soul, my all: but when I turn to dust,
And part from what is more esteemed, by me,
Than all the gods Rome's thousand altars smoke to,
Inherit thou my adoration of it,
And, like me, serve my idol.

[Exit.

Parth. What a strange torture
Is avarice to itself! What man, that looks on
Such a penurious spectacle, but must
Know what the fable meant of Tantalus,
Or the ass whose back is cracked with curious viands,
Yet feeds on thistles? Some course I must take,
To make my father know what cruelty
He uses on himself.

Enter PARIS.

Par. Sir, with your pardon,
I make bold to inquire the emperor's pleasure;
For, being by him commanded to attend,
Your favour may instruct us what's his will
Shall be this night presented.

Parth. My loved Paris,
Without my intercession, you well know,
You may make your own approaches, since his ear
To you is ever open.

Par. I acknowledge
His clemency to my weakness, and, if ever
I do abuse it, lightning strike me dead!
The grace he pleases to confer upon me,
(Without boast I may say so much,) was never
Employed to wrong the innocent, or to incense
His fury.

Parth. 'Tis confessed: many men owe you

For provinces they ne'er hoped for; and their lives, Forfeited to his anger:—you being absent, I could say more.

Par. You still are my good patron; And, lay it in my fortune to deserve it, You should perceive the poorest of your clients To his best abilities thankful.

Parth. I believe so.

Met you my father?

Par. Yes, sir, with much grief,
To see him as he is. Can nothing work him
To be himself?

Parth. O, Paris, 'tis a weight Sits heavy here; and could this right hand's loss Remove it, it should off: but he is deaf To all persuasion.

Par. Sir, with your pardon, I'll offer my advice: I once observed. In a tragedy of ours, in which a murder Was acted to the life, a guilty hearer, Forced by the terror of a wounded conscience. To make discovery of that which torture Could not wring from him. Nor can it appear Like an impossibility, but that Your father, looking on a covetous man Presented on the stage, as in a mirror, May see his own deformity, and loathe it. Now, could you but persuade the emperor To see a comedy we have, that's styled The Cure of Avarice, and to command Your father to be a spectator of it, He shall be so anatomized in the scene. And see himself so personated, the baseness Of a self-torturing miserable wretch Truly described, that I much hope the object Will work compunction in him.

Parth. There's your fee;

I ne'er bought better counsel. Be you in readiness, I will effect the rest.

Par. Sir, when you please;
We'll be prepared to enter.—Sir, the emperor.

Exit.

Enter CÆSAR, ARETINUS, and Guard.

Cæs. Repine at us!

Aret. 'Tis more, or my informers, That keep strict watch upon him, are deceived In their intelligence: there is a list Of malcontents, as Junius Rusticus, Palphurius Sura, and this Ælius Lamia, That murmur at your triumphs, as mere pageants: And, at their midnight meetings, tax your justice. (For so I style what they call tyranny,) For Pætus Thrasea's death, as if in him Virtue herself were murdered: nor forget they Agricola, who, for his service done In the reducing Britain to obedience, They dare affirm to be removed with poison; And he compelled to write you a coheir With his daughter, that his testament might stand, Which else you had made void. Then your much love

To Julia your niece, censured as incest,
And done in scorn of Titus, your dead brother:
But the divorce Lamia was forced to sign
To her you honour with Augusta's title,
Being only named, they do conclude there was
A Lucrece once, a Collatine, and a Brutus;
But nothing Roman left now but, in you,
The lust of Tarquin.

Cas. Yes, his fire, and scorn
Of such as think that our unlimited power
Can be confined. Dares Lamia pretend
An interest to that which I call mine;
Or but remember she was ever his,

That's now in our possession? Fetch him hither.

[Exit Guard.

I'll give him cause to wish he rather had Forgot his own name than e'er mentioned hers. Shall we be circumscribed? Let such as cannot By force make good their actions, though wicked, Conceal, excuse, or qualify their crimes! What our desires grant leave and privilege to, Though contradicting all divine decrees, Or laws confirmed by Romulus and Numa, Shall be held sacred.

Aret. You should else take from The dignity of Cæsar.

Cas. Am I master
Of two and thirty legions, that awe
All nations of the triumphèd world,
Yet tremble at our frown!—yield an account
Of what's our pleasure to a private man!
Rome perish first, and Atlas' shoulders shrink,
Heaven's fabric fall (the sun, the moon, the stars
Losing their light and comfortable heat),
Ere I confess that any fault of mine
May be disputed!

Aret. So you preserve your power, As you should, equal and omnipotent here With Jupiter's above.

[PARTHENIUS kneeling, whispers CESAR.

Cæs. Thy suit is granted,
Whate'er it be, Parthenius, for thy service
Done to Augusta.—Only so? a trifle:
Command him hither. If the comedy fail
To cure him, I will minister something to him
That shall instruct him to forget his gold,
And think upon himself.

Parth. May it succeed well, Since my intents are pious! Cas. We are resolved

Exit,

What course to take; and, therefore, Aretinus, Inquire no further. Go you to my empress, And say I do entreat (for she rules him Whom all men else obey) she would vouchsafe The music of her voice at yonder window, When I advance my hand, thus. I will blend

[Exit ARETINUS.

My cruelty with some scorn, or else 'tis lost;
Revenge, when it is unexpected, falling
With greater violence; and hate clothed in smiles,
Strikes, and with horror, dead the wretch that comes
not

Prepared to meet it.-

Re-enter Guard with LAMIA.

Our good Lamia, welcome.

So much we owe you for a benefit,
With willingness on your part conferred upon us,
That 'tis our study, we that would not live
Engaged to any for a courtesy,
How to return it.

Lam. 'Tis beneath your fate
To be obliged, that in your own hand grasp
The means to be magnificent.

Cas. Well put off;
But yet it must not do: the empire, Lamia,
Divided equally, can hold no weight,
If balanced with your gift in fair Domitia—
You, that could part with all delights at once,
The magazine of rich pleasures being contained
In her perfections,—uncompelled, delivered
As a present fit for Cæsar. In your eyes,
With tears of joy, not sorrow, 'tis confirmed
You glory in your act.

Lam. Derided too!
Sir, this is more—
Cas. More than I can requite;

It is acknowledged, Lamia. There's no drop
Of melting nectar I taste from her lip,
But yields a touch of immortality
To the blest receiver; every grace and feature,
Prized to the worth, bought at an easy rate,
If purchased for a consulship. Her discourse
So ravishing, and her action so attractive,
That I would part with all my other senses,
Provided I might ever see and hear her.
The pleasures of her bed I dare not trust
The winds or air with; for that would draw down,
In envy of my happiness, a war
From all the gods, upon me.

Lam. Your compassion
To me, in your forbearing to insult
On my calamity, which you make your sport,
Would more appease those gods you have provoked
Than all the blasphemous comparisons
You sing unto her praise.

DOMITIA appears at the window.

Cas. I sing her praise!
'Tis far from my ambition to hope it;
It being a debt she only can lay down,
And no tongue else discharge.

[He raises his hand. Music above. Hark! I think, prompted

With my consent that you once more should hear her,

She does begin. An universal silence

Dwell on this place! 'Tis death, with lingering torments,

To all that dare disturb her.—

[A song by DOMITTA.

Who can hear this.

And falls not down and worships? In my fancy, Apollo being judge, on Latmos' hill Fair-haired Calliope, on her ivory lute, But something short of this.) sung Ceres' praises, And grisly Pluto's rape on Proserpine.

The motion of the spheres are out of time,
Her musical notes but heard. Say, Lamia, say,
Is not her voice angelical?

Lam. To your ear:

But I, alas! am silent.

Cæs. Be so ever,

That without admiration canst hear her!

Malice to my felicity strikes thee dumb,
And, in thy hope, or wish, to repossess
What I love more than empire, I pronounce thee
Guilty of treason.—Off with his head! Do you stare?
By her that is my patroness, Minerva,
Whose statue I adore of all the gods,
If he but live to make reply, thy life
Shall answer it!

[The Guard leads off Lamia, stopping his mouth.

My fears of him are freed now;

And he that lived to upbraid me with my wrong,

For an offence he never could imagine,
In wantonness removed.—Descend, my dearest;
Plurality of husbands shall no more
Breed doubts or jealousies in you: [Exit Domitia above.]

'tis dispatched,

And with as little trouble here, as if I had killed a fly.

Enter Domitia, ushered in by Aretinus, her train with all state borne up by Julia, Cænis, and Domitilla.

Now you appear, and in That glory you deserve! and these, that stoop To do you service, in the act much honoured! Julia, forget that Titus was thy father; Cænis, and Domitilla, ne'er remember Sabinus or Vespasian. To be slaves To her is more true liberty than to live Parthian or Asian queens. As lesser stars,

That wait on Phœbe¹ in her full of brightness, Compared to her, you are. Thus I seat you By Cæsar's side, commanding these, that once Were the adorèd glories of the time, To witness to the world they are your vassals, At your feet to attend you.

Dom. 'Tis your pleasure,
And not my pride. And yet, when I consider
That I am yours, all duties they can pay
I do receive as circumstances due
To her you please to honour.

Re-enter Parthenius with Philargus.

Parth. Cæsar's will

Commands you hither, nor must you gainsay it.

Phil. Lose time to see an interlude! must I pay too
For my vexation?

Parth. Not in the court: It is the emperor's charge.

Phil. I shall endure

My torment then the better.

Cas. Can it be

This sordid thing, Parthenius, is thy father?

No actor can express him: I had held
The fiction for impossible in the scene,
Had I not seen the substance.—Sirrah, sit still,
And give attention; if you but nod,
You sleep for ever.—Let them spare the prologue,
And all the ceremonies proper to ourself,
And come to the last act—there where the cure
By the doctor is made perfect. The swift minutes
Seem years to me, Domitia, that divorce thee
From my embraces: my desires increasing
As they are satisfied, all pleasures else
Are tedious as dull sorrows. Kiss me;—again:
If I now wanted heat of youth, these fires,

¹ The moon.

In Priam's veins, would thaw his frozen blood, Enabling him to get a second Hector For the defence of Troy.

Dom. You are wanton! Pray you, forbear. Let me see the play.

Cæs. Begin there.

Enter PARIS, like a doctor of physic, and ÆSOPUS; LATINUS is brought forth asleep in a chair, a key in his mouth.

Æsop. O master doctor, he is past recovery; A lethargy hath seized him; and, however His sleep resembles death, his watchful care To guard that treasure he dares make no use of Works strongly in his soul.

Par. What's that he holds So fast between his teeth? Æsop. The key that opens His iron chests, crammed with accursed gold, Rusty with long imprisonment. There's no duty

In me, his son, nor confidence in friends, That can persuade him to deliver up That to the trust of any.

Phil. He is the wiser:

We were fashioned in one mould.

Æsop. He eats with it; And when devotion calls him to the temple Of Mammon, whom, of all the gods, he kneels to, That held thus still, his orisons are paid: Nor will he, though the wealth of Rome were pawned For the restoring of't, for one short hour

Be won to part with it.

Phil. Still, still myself! And if like me he love his gold, no pawn Is good security.

Par. I'll try if I can force it-It will not be. His avaricious mind. Like men in rivers drowned, makes him gripe fast To his last gasp, what he in life held dearest; Mass. II.

And, if that it were possible in nature, Would carry it with him to the other world.

Phil. As I would do to hell, rather than leave it.

Æsop. Is he not dead?

Par. Long since to all good actions. Or to himself or others, for which wise men You may with safety pinch him. Desire to live. Or under his nails stick needles, yet he stirs not: Anxious fear to lose what his soul dotes on. Renders his flesh insensible. We must use Some means to rouse the sleeping faculties Of his mind; there lies the lethargy. Take a trumpet. And blow it into his ears; 'tis to no purpose; The roaring noise of thunder cannot wake him: -And yet despair not: I have one trick left yet.

Æsop. What is it?

Par. I will cause a fearful dream To steal into his fancy, and disturb it With the horror it brings with it, and so free His body's organs.

Dom. 'Tis a cunning fellow; If he were indeed a doctor, as the play says, He should be sworn my servant; govern my slumbers, [A chest brought in. And minister to me waking.

Par. If this fail.

I'll give him o'er. So: with all violence Rend ope this iron chest, for here his life lies Bound up in fetters, and in the defence Of what he values higher, 'twill return, And fill each vein and artery.-Louder yet! -'Tis open, and already he begins To stir: mark with what trouble.

[LATINUS stretches himself.

Phil. As you are Cæsar, Defend this honest, thrifty man! they are thieves, And come to rob him.

Parth. Peace! the emperor frowns.

Par. So; now pour out the bags upon the table;

Remove his jewels, and his bonds.—Again, Ring a second golden peal. His eyes are open; He stares as he had seen Medusa's head, And were turned marble.—Once more.

Lat. Murder! murder!
Thieves! murder! murder! My son in the plot?
Thou worse than parricide! if it be death
To strike thy father's body, can all tortures
The Furies in hell practise be sufficient
For thee, that dost assassinate my soul?—
My gold! my bonds! my jewels! dost thou envy
My glad possession of them for a day;
Extinguishing the taper of my life
Consumed unto the snuff?

Par. Seem not to mind him.

Lat. Have I, to leave thee rich, denied myself The joys of human being: scraped and hoarded A mass of treasure, which had Solon seen, The Lydian Crossus had appeared to him Poor as the beggar Irus? And yet I, Solicitous to increase it, when my entrails Were clemmed 1 with keeping a perpetual fast, Was deaf to their loud windy cries, as fearing, Should I disburse one penny to their use, My heir might curse me. And, to save expense In outward ornaments, I did expose My naked body to the winter's cold, And summer's scorching heat: nay, when diseases Grew thick upon me, and a little cost Had purchased my recovery, I chose rather To have my ashes closed up in my urn, By hasting on my fate, than to diminish The gold my prodigal son, while I am living, Carelessly scatters.

Æsop. Would you'd dispatch and die once! Your ghost should feel in hell, that is my slave Which was your master.

Phil. Out upon thee, varlet!

^{1 &}quot;Clemmed," which is frequently met with in the old dramatists, is still used in many parts of the country for starved with cold or hunger.

Par. And what then follows all your cark and caring, And self-affliction? When your starved trunk is Turned to forgotten dust, this hopeful youth Urines upon your monument, ne'er remembering How much for him you suffered; and then tells, To the companions of his lusts and riots, The hell you did endure on earth, to leave him Large means to be an epicure, and to feast His senses all at once, a happiness You never granted to yourself. Your gold, then, Got with vexation, and preserved with trouble, Maintains the public stews, panders, and ruffians, That quaff damnations to your memory, For living so long here.

Lat. 'Twill be so; I see it-

O, that I could redeem the time that's past! I would live and die like myself; and make true use Of what my industry purchased.

Par. Covetous men,

Having one foot in the grave, lament so ever: But grant that I by art could yet recover Your desperate sickness, lengthen out your life A dozen of years; as I restore your body To perfect health, will you with care endeavour To rectify your mind?

Lat. I should so live then, As neither my heir should have just cause to think I lived too long, for being close-handed to him, Or cruel to myself.

Par. Have your desires.

Phœbus assisting me, I will repair
The ruined building of your health; and think not
You have a son that hates you; the truth is,
This means, with his consent, I practised on you
To this good end: it being a device,
In you to show the Cure of Avarice.

[Exeunt Paris, Latinus, and Æsopus.

Phil. An old fool, to be gulled thus! had he died As I resolve to do, not to be altered, It had gone off twanging.

Cas. How approve you, sweetest, Of the matter, and the actors?

Dom. For the subject. I like it not; it was filched out of Horace. -Nav. I have read the poets:-but the fellow That played the doctor did it well, by Venus! He had a tuneable tongue and neat delivery: And yet, in my opinion, he would perform A lover's part much better. Prithee, Cæsar, For I grow weary, let us see, to-morrow, Iphis and Anaxarete.

Cæs. Anything

For thy delight, Domitia; to your rest, Till I come to disquiet you. Wait upon her. There is a business that I must dispatch, And I will straight be with you,

[Exeunt Aret., Dom., Julia, Cænis, and Domitilla. Parth. Now, my dread sir,

Endeavour to prevail.

Cæs. One way or other

We'll cure him, never doubt it. Now, Philargus, Thou wretched thing, hast thou seen thy sordid baseness. And but observed what a contemptible creature A covetous miser is? Dost thou in thyself Feel true compunction, with a resolution To be a new man?

Phil. This crazed body's Cæsar's;

But for my mind-

Cas. Trifle not with my anger.

Canst thou make good use of what was now presented. And imitate, in thy sudden change of life, The miserable rich man that expressed

What thou art to the life?

Phil. Pray you, give me leave To die as I have lived. I must not part with My gold; it is my life: I am past cure.

Cas. No; by Minerva, thou shalt never more

Feel the least touch of avarice. Take him hence, And hang him instantly. If there be gold in hell, Enjoy it:—thine here, and thy life together, Is forfeited.

Phil. Was I sent for to this purpose?

Parth. Mercy for all my service; Cæsar, mercy!

Cæs. Should Jove plead for him, 'tis resolved he dies,

And he that speaks one syllable to dissuade me;

And therefore tempt me not. It is but justice:

Since such as wilfully will hourly die,

Must tax themselves, and not my cruelty.

[Exeunt





ACT THE THIRD.

SCENE I .- A Room in the Palace.

Enter Julia, Domitilla, and Stephanos.



UL. No, Domitilla; if you but compare What I have suffered with your injuries,

(Though great ones, I confess,) they will appear
Like molehills to Olympus.

Domitil. You are tender

Of your own wounds, which makes you lose the feeling And sense of mine. The incest he committed With you, and publicly professed, in scorn Of what the world durst censure, may admit Some weak defence, as being borne headlong to it, But in a manly way, to enjoy your beauties: Besides, won by his perjuries that he would Salute you with the title of Augusta, Your faint denial showed a full consent And grant to his temptations. But poor I. That would not yield, but was with violence forced To serve his lusts, and in a kind Tiberius At Capreæ never practised, have not here One conscious touch to rise up my accuser, I, in my will, being innocent. Steph. Pardon me,

Great princesses, though I presume to tell you,
Wasting your time in childish lamentations;
You do degenerate from the blood you spring from:
For there is something more in Rome expected

From Titus' daughter, and his uncle's heir,
Than womanish complaints, after such wrongs
Which mercy cannot pardon. But, you'll say,
Your hands are weak, and should you but attempt
A just revenge on this inhuman monster,
This prodigy of mankind, bloody Domitian
Hath ready swords 1 at his command, as well
As islands to confine you, to remove
His doubts and fears, did he but entertain
The least suspicion you contrived or plotted
Against his person.

Ful. 'Tis true, Stephanos; The legions that sacked Jerusalem, Under my father Titus, are sworn his, And I no more remembered.

Domitil. And to lose Ourselves by building on impossible hopes, Were desperate madness.

Steph. You conclude too fast.

One single arm, whose master does contemn
His own life, holds a full command o'er his,
Spite of his guards. I was your bondman, lady,
And you my gracious patroness; my wealth
And liberty your gift; and, though no soldier,
To whom or custom or example makes
Grim death appear less terrible, I dare die
To do you service in a fair revenge;
And it will better suit your births and honours
To fall at once than to live ever slaves
To his proud empress, that insults upon
Your patient sufferings. Say but you, "Go on!"
And I will reach his heart, or perish in
The noble undertaking.

Domitil. Your free offer Confirms your thankfulness, which I acknowledge A satisfaction for a greater debt

¹ The quarto has "words."

Than what you stand engaged for; but I must not, Upon uncertain grounds, hazard so grateful And good a servant. The immortal Powers Protect a prince, though sold to impious acts, And seem to slumber, till his roaring crimes Awake their justice; but then, looking down, And with impartial eyes, on his contempt Of all religion and moral goodness, They, in their secret judgments, do determine To leave him to his wickedness, which sinks him When he is most secure.

Jul. His cruelty
Increasing daily, of necessity
Must render him as odious to his soldiers,
Familiar friends, and freedmen, as it hath done
Already to the Senate: then, forsaken
Of his supporters, and grown terrible
Even to himself, and her he now so dotes on,
We may put into act what now with safety
We cannot whisper.

Steph. I am still prepared
To execute, when you please to command me:
Since I am confident he deserves much more
That vindicates 1 his country from a tyranny
Than he that saves a citizen.

Enter CÆNIS.

Jul. O, here's Cænis.

Domitil. Whence come you?

Canis. From the empress, who seems moved In that you wait no better. Her pride's grown To such a height that she disdains the service Of her own women, and esteems herself Neglected when the princesses of the blood, On every coarse employment, are not ready To stoop to her commands.

¹ Used like Latin vindico for saves, sets free.

Domitil. Where is her Greatness?

Canis. Where you would little think she could descer

To grace the room or persons.

Jul. Speak, where is she?

Cænis. Among the players: where, all state laid by, She does inquire who plays this part, who that, And in what habits? blames the tirewomen For want of curious dressings;—and, so taken She is with Paris the tragedian's shape,¹ That is to act a lover, I thought once She would have courted him.

Domitil. In the mean time

How spends the emperor his hours?

Canis. As ever

He hath done heretofore; in being cruel To innocent men, whose virtues he calls crimes. And, but this morning, if't be possible, He hath outgone himself, having condemned, At Aretinus his informer's suit, Palphurius Sura and good Junius Rusticus, Men of best repute in Rome for their Integrity of life; no fault objected, But that they did lament his cruel sentence On Pætus Thrasea, the philosopher, Their patron and instructor.

Steph. Can Jove see this,
And hold his thunder!

Domitil. Nero and Caligula
Commanded only mischiefs; but our Cæsar
Delights to see them.

Jul. What we cannot help, We may deplore with silence. Canis. We are called for

By our proud mistress.

Domitil. We awhile must suffer.

Steph. It is true fortitude to stand firm against

¹ Stage-dress.

All shocks of fate, when cowards faint and die In fear to suffer more calamity. Exeunt.



SCENE II.—Another Room in the same.

Enter CESAR and PARTHENIUS.

· Cas. They are then in fetters? Parth. Yes, sir, but-

Cas. But what?

I'll have thy thoughts; deliver them.

Parth. I shall, sir:

But still submitting to your god-like pleasure, Which cannot be instructed—

Cas. To the point.

Parth. Nor let your sacred majesty believe Your vassal, that with dry eyes looked upon His father dragged to death by your command, Can pity these, that durst presume to censure What you decreed.

Cas. Well; forward.

Parth. 'Tis my zeal

Still to preserve your clemency admired, Tempered with justice, that emboldens me To offer my advice. Alas! I know, sir, These bookmen, Rusticus and Palphurius Sura, Deserve all tortures; yet, in my opinion, They being popular senators, and cried up With loud applauses of the multitude. For foolish honesty, and beggarly virtue, 'Twould relish more of policy, to have them Made away in private, with what exquisite torments You please,—it skills not,—than to have them drawn To the Degrees in public; for 'tis doubted That the sad object may beget compassion

¹ The Scalæ Gemoniæ. See note ante, p. 8.

In the giddy rout, and cause some sudden uproar That may disturb you.

Cæs. Hence, pale-spirited coward! Can we descend so far beneath ourself, As or to court the people's love, or fear Their worst of hate? Can they, that are as dust Before the whirlwind of our will and power, Add any moment 1 to us? or thou think, If there are gods above, or goddesses, But wise Minerva, that's mine own, and sure, That they have vacant hours to take into Their serious protection, or care, This many-headed monster? Mankind lives In few, as potent monarchs and their peers; And all those glorious constellations That do adorn the firmament, appointed, Like grooms, with their bright influence to attend The actions of kings and emperors. They being the greater wheels that move the less. Bring forth those condemned wretches: -[Exit PARTHE-NIUS.]—let me see

One man so lost as but to pity them, And, though there lay a million of souls Imprisoned in his flesh, my hangmen's hooks Should rend it off and give them liberty. Cæsar hath said it,

Re-enter Parthenius, with Aretinus, and Guard; Hangmen dragging in Junius Rusticus and Pal-Phurius Sura, bound back to back.

Aret. 'Tis great Cæsar's pleasure, That with fixed eyes you carefully observe The people's looks. Charge upon any man That with a sigh or murmur does express A seeming sorrow for these traitors' deaths. You know his will, perform it.

¹ Importance; as in the phrase, a thing of moment.

Cas. A good bloodhound, And fit for my employments.

Sura. Give us leave

To die, fell tyrant.

Rust. For, beyond our bodies,

Thou hast no power.

Cas. Yes; I'll afflict your souls, And force them groaning to the Stygian lake, Prepared for such to howl in that blaspheme The power of princes, that are gods on earth. Tremble to think how terrible the dream is After this sleep of death.

Rust. To guilty men
It may bring terror; not to us that know
What 'tis to die, well taught by his example
For whom we suffer. In my thought I see
The substance of that pure untainted soul
Of Thrasea, our master, made a star,
That with melodious harmony invites us
(Leaving this dunghill Rome, made hell by thee)
To trace his heavenly steps, and fill a sphere
Above yon crystal canopy.

Cas. Do, invoke him
With all the aids his sanctity of life
Have won on the rewarders of his virtue;
They shall not save you.—Dogs, do you grin? torment them.

[The Hangmen torment them, they still smiling. So, take a leaf of Seneca now, and prove
If it can render you insensible
Of that which but begins here. Now an oil,
Drawn from the Stoic's frozen principles,
Predominant over fire, were useful for you.
Again, again. You trifle. Not a groan!—
Is my rage lost? What cursed charms defend them!

¹ This is of course a reminiscence of Hamlet's soliloquy, and is a good instance of Massinger's success in spoiling Shakespeare.

Search deeper, villains. Who looks pale, or thinks That I am cruel?

Aret. Over-merciful:

'Tis all your weakness, sir.

Parth. [Aside.] I dare not show A sign of sorrow; yet my sinews shrink, The spectacle is so horrid.

Cas. I was never

O'ercome till now. For my sake roar a little, And show you are corporeal, and not turned Aerial spirits.—Will it not do? By Pallas, It is unkindly done to mock his fury Whom the world styles Omnipotent! I am tortured In their want of feeling torments. Marius' story, That does report him to have sat unmoved, When cunning chirurgeons ripped his arteries And veins, to cure his gout, compared to this, Deserves not to be named. Are they not dead? If so, we wash an Æthiop.

Sura. No; we live.

Rust. Live to deride thee, our calm patience treading Upon the neck of tyranny. That securely, As 'twere a gentle slumber, we endure Thy hangmen's studied tortures, is a debt We owe to grave philosophy, that instructs us The flesh is but the clothing of the soul, Which growing out of fashion, though it be Cast off, or rent, or torn, like ours, 'tis then, Being itself divine, in her best lustre. But unto such as thou, that have no hopes Beyond the present, every little scar, The want of rest, excess of heat or cold, That does inform them only they are mortal, Pierce through and through them.

Cæs. We will hear no more.

Rust. This only, and I give thee warning of it: Though it is in thy will to grind this earth

As small as atoms, they thrown in the sea too, They shall seem re-collected to thy sense:—And, when the sandy building of thy greatness Shall with its own weight totter, look to see me As I was yesterday, in my perfect shape; For I'll appear in horror.

Cas. By my shaking

I am the guilty man, and not the judge.

Drag from my sight these cursed ominous wizards,
That, as they are now, like to double-faced Janus,
Which way soe'er I look, are Furies to me.

Away with them! first show them death, then leave
No memory of their ashes. I'll mock Fate.

[Exeunt Hangmen with RUSTICUS and SURA. Shall words fright him victorious armies circle? No, no; the fever doth begin to leave me;

Enter Domitia, Julia, and Cænis; Stephanos following.

Or, were it deadly, from this living fountain I could renew the vigour of my youth, And be a second Virbius. O my glory! My life! command! my all!

Dom. As you to me are.

[Embracing and kissing mutually.

I heard you were sad; I have prepared you sport Will banish melancholy. Sirrah, Cæsar, (I hug myself for't), I have been instructing The players how to act; and to cut off All tedious impertinency, have contracted The tragedy into one continued scene. I have the art of't, and am taken more With my ability that way, than all knowledge I have but of thy love.

¹ The name taken by Hippolytus after his second coming to life. See Virgil, Æneid, vii. 776. ?ohnsonus Virbius was the name given to a collection of verses to the memory of Ben Johnson.

Cas. Thou art still thyself, The sweetest, wittiest—

Dom. When we are a-bed
I'll thank your good opinion. Thou shalt see
Such an Iphis of thy Paris!—and, to humble
The pride of Domitilla, that neglects me
(Howe'er she is your cousin), I have forced her
To play the part of Anaxarete—
You are not offended with it?

Cæs. Any thing

That does content thee yields delight to me: My faculties and powers are thine.

Dom. I thank you:

Prithee let's take our places. Bid them enter Without more circumstance.

After a short flourish, enter Paris as Iphis.

How do you like

That shape? methinks it is most suitable To the aspect of a despairing lover. The seeming late-fallen, counterfeited tears That hang upon his cheeks, was my device.

Cæs. And all was excellent.

Dom. Now hear him speak.

Iphis. That she is fair (and that an epithet Too foul to express her), or descended nobly, Or rich, or fortunate, are certain truths In which poor Iphis glories. But that these Perfections, in no other virgin found, Abused. should nourish cruelty and pride In the divinest Anaxarete, Is, to my love-sick, languishing soul, a riddle; And with more difficulty to be dissolved Than that the monster Sphinx, from the steepy rock, Offered to Œdipus. Imperious Love, As at thy ever-flaming altars Iphis,

¹ This interlude is founded on Ovid's story of Iphis and A arete (*Met.*, xiv., 698 et seq.)

Thy never-tired votary, hath presented, With scalding tears, whole hecatombs of sighs, Preferring thy power, and thy Paphian mother's, Before the Thunderer's, Neptune's, or Pluto's (That, after Saturn, did divide the world, And had the sway of things, yet were compelled By thy unevitable 1 shafts to yield, And fight under thy ensigns), be auspicious To this last trial of my sacrifice Of love and service!

Dom. Does he not act it rarely? Observe with what a feeling he delivers His orisons to Cupid; I am rapt with't.

Iphis. And from thy never-emptied quiver take A golden arrow,2 to transfix her heart, And force her love like me; or cure my wound With a leaden one, that may beget in me Hate and forgetfulness of what's now my idol-But I call back my prayer: I have blasphemed In my rash wish: 'tis I that am unworthy; But she all merit, and may in justice challenge, From the assurance of her excellencies, Not love but adoration. Yet, bear witness. All-knowing Powers! I bring along with me, As faithful advocates to make intercession. A loval heart with pure and holy flames. With the foul fires of lust never polluted. And, as I touch her threshold, which with tears, My limbs benumbed with cold, I oft have washed, With my glad lips I kiss this earth, grown proud With frequent favours from her delicate feet.

Dom. By Cæsar's life he weeps! and I forbear Hardly to keep him company.

Iphis. Blest ground, thy pardon, If I profane it with forbidden steps.

Mass. II.

E

¹ This was an alternative, though less common, spelling of "inevitable." Coles, in his Latin Dictionary, renders "unevitable" by inevitabilis (unavoidable).

² See Ovid, Met., i. 468. Massinger is never tired of referring to the golden and leaden-tipped arrows of Cupid.

I must presume to knock—and yet attempt it With such a trembling reverence, as if My hands [were now] held up for expiation To the incensed gods to spare a kingdom. Within there, ho! something divine come forth To a distressed mortal.

Enter LATINUS as a Porter.

Port. Ha! Who knocks there?

Dom. What a churlish look this knave has!

Port. Is't you, sirrah?

Are you come to pule and whine? Avaunt, and quickly: Dog-whips shall drive you hence else.

Dom. Churlish devil!

But that I should disturb the scene, as I live I would tear his eyes out.

Cæs. 'Tis in jest, Domitia.

Dom. I do not like such jesting; if he were not A flinty-hearted slave, he could not use One of his form so harshly. How the toad swells At the other's sweet humility!

Cæs. 'Tis his part:

Let them proceed.

Dom. A rogue's part will ne'er leave him.

Iphis. As you have, gentle sir, the happiness When you please to behold the figure of The masterpiece of nature, limned to the life, In more than human Anaxarete, Scorn not your servant, that with suppliant hands Takes hold upon your knees, conjuring you, As you are a man, and did not suck the milk Of wolves and tigers, or a mother of A tougher temper, use some means these eyes, Before they are wept out, may see your lady. Will you be gracious, sir?

Port. Though I lose my place for't, I can hold out no longer.

Dom. Now he melts, There is some little hope he may die honest.

Port. Madam!

Enter DOMITILLA as ANAXARETE.

Anax. Who calls? What object have we here?.

Dom. Your cousin keeps her proud state still; I think I have fitted her for a part.

Anax. Did I not charge thee
I ne'er might see this thing more!

Iphis. I am, indeed,
What thing you please; a worm that you may tread on:
Lower I cannot fall to show my duty,
Till your disdain hath digged a grave to cover
This body with forgotten dust; and, when
I know your sentence, cruellest of women!
I'll, by a willing death, remove the object
That is an eyesore to you.

Anax. Wretch, thou dar'st not:

That were the last and greatest service to me
Thy doting love could boast of. What dull fool
But thou could nourish any flattering hope,
One of my height in youth, in birth and fortune,
Could e'er descend to look upon thy lowness,
Much less consent to make my lord of one
I'd not accept, though offered for my slave?
My thoughts stoop not so low.

Dom. There's her true nature: No personated scorn.

Anax. I wrong my worth,
Or to exchange a syllable or look
With one so far beneath me.
Iphis. Yet take heed,
Take heed of pride, and curiously consider
How brittle the foundation is on which
You labour to advance it. Niobe,
Proud of her numerous issue, durst contemn
Latona's double burthen; but what followed?

She was left a childless mother, and mourned to marble. The beauty you o'erprize so, time or sickness Can change to loathed deformity; your wealth The prey of thieves; queen Hecuba, Troy fired, Ulysses' bondwoman: but the love I bring you Nor time, nor sickness, violent thieves, nor fate, Can ravish from you.

Dom. Could the oracle Give better counsel!

Iphis. Say, will you relent yet, Revoking your decree that I should die? Or shall I do what you command? Resolve; ¹ I am impatient of delay.

Anax. Dispatch then:
I shall look on your tragedy unmoved,
Peradventure laugh at it; for it will prove
A comedy to me.

Dom. O devil! devil!

Iphis. Then thus I take my last leave. All the curses Of lovers fall upon you; and, hereafter, When any man, like me contemned, shall study, In the anguish of his soul, to give a name To a scornful, cruel mistress, let him only Say, "This most bloody woman is to me As Anaxarete was to wretched Iphis!"——Now feast your tyrannous mind, and glory in The ruins you have made: for Hymen's bands, That should have made us one, this fatal halter For ever shall divorce us; at your gate, As a trophy of your pride and my affliction, I'll presently hang myself.

Dom. Not for the world— [Starts from her seat. Restrain him, as you love your lives! Cas. Why are you
Transported thus, Domitia? 'tis a play;

Or, grant it serious, it at no part merits This passion 2 in you.

ms passion in you

¹ Decide.

² Emotion.

Par. I ne'er purposed, madam, To do the deed in earnest; though I bow To your care and tenderness of me.

Dom. Let me, sir,

Entreat your pardon; what I saw presented, Carried me beyond myself.

Cas. To your place again,

And see what follows.

Dom. No, I am familiar
With the conclusion: besides

With the conclusion; besides, upon the sudden I feel myself much indisposed.

Cas. To bed then;

I'll be thy doctor.

Aret. There is something more In this than passion,—which I must find out, Or my intelligence freezes.

Dom. Come to me, Paris, To-morrow, for your reward.

[Exeunt all but Domitilla and Stephanos.

Steph. Patroness, hear me;

Will you not call for your share? 1 Sit down with this, 2 And, the next action, like a Gaditane strumpet, 3

I shall look to see you tumble!

Domitil. Prithee be patient.

I, that have suffered greater wrongs, bear this:

And that, till my revenge, my comfort is.

[Exeunt.

¹ The actors in Shakespeare's time always performed on "sharing terms," i.e. the whole takings of the company were divided among the members according to their share.

2 i.e. "Stand this," as we should say now. Boyer, in his French Dictionary, gives, as an English idiom, "He is contented to sit down and rest satisfied with it."

3 See Juvenal, Sat. xi., 162.





ACT THE FOURTH.

SCENE I .- A Room in the Palace.

Enter Parthenius, Julia, Domitilla, and CA

ARTH. Why, 'tis impossible.—Pa Ful. You observed not,
As it appears, the violence of he sion,
When personating Inhis he pret

When, personating Iphis, he pret For your contempt, fair Anaxaret To hang himself.

Parth. Yes, yes, I noted that; But never could imagine it could work her To such a strange intemperance of affection As to dote on him.

Domitil. By my hopes, I think not That she respects, though all here saw and marked Presuming she can mould the emperor's will Into what form she likes, though we, and all The informers of the world, conspired to cross it.

Can. Then with what eagerness, this morning, u
The want of health and rest, she did entreat
Casar to leave her!

Domitil. Who no sooner absent,
But she calls, "Dwarf!" (so in her scorn she style
"Put on my pantofles2; fetch pen and paper,
I am to write":—and with distracted looks,

¹ Cares. Compare Taylor (quoted by Nares): "And cares not for his soule, I thinke, Respects not if his country sinke."

² Slippers.

In her smock, impatient of so short delay
As but to have a mantle thrown upon her,
She sealed—I know not what, but 'twas indorsed,
"To my loved Paris."

Ful. Add to this, I heard her Say, when a page received it, "Let him wait me, And carefully, in the walk called our Retreat, Where Cæsar, in his fear to give offence, Unsent for, never enters."

Parth. This being certain, (For these are more than jealous suppositions,) Why do not you, that are so near in blood, Discover it?

Domitil. Alas! you know we dare not. 'Twill be received for a malicious practice,¹ To free us from that slavery which her pride Imposes on us. But, if you would please To break the ice, on pain to be sunk ever, We would aver it.

Parth. I would second you, But that I am commanded with all speed To fetch in ² Ascletario the Chaldæan; Who, in his absence, is condemned of treason. For calculating the nativity Of Cæsar, with all confidence foretelling, In every circumstance, when he shall die A violent death. Yet, if you could approve Of my directions, I would have you speak As much to Aretinus, as you have To me delivered: he in his own nature Being a spy, on weaker grounds, no doubt, Will undertake it; not for goodness' sake, (With which he never yet held correspondence,) But to endear his vigilant observings. Of what concerns the emperor, and a little

¹ Conspiracy.

² Arrest.

To triumph in the ruins of this Paris,
That crossed him in the senate-house.—

Enter ARETINUS.

Here he com

His nose held up; he hath something in the wind, Or I much err, already. My designs Command me hence, great ladies; but I leave My wishes with you. [Ex

Aret. Have I caught your Greatness
In the trap, my proud Augusta!

Domitil. What is't raps' him?

Aret. And my fine Roman Actor! Is't even so? No coarser dish to take your wanton palate, Save that which, but the emperor, none durst taste of! Tis very well. I needs must glory in This rare discovery: but the rewards Of my intelligence bid me think, even now, By an edict from Cæsar, I have power To tread upon the neck of slavish Rome, Disposing offices and provinces

To my kinsmen, friends, and clients.

Damitil This is more

Domitil. This is more Than usual with him.

Ful. Aretinus!
Aret. How!

No more respect and reverence tendered to me, But Aretinus! 'Tis confessed that title, When you were princesses, and commanded all, Had been a favour; but being, as you are, Vassals to a proud woman, the worst bondage, You stand obliged with as much adoration To entertain him that comes armed with strength To break your fetters as tanned galley-slaves

^{1 &}quot;Raps" is the rarely-found third person singular of the v familiar to us in the past participle "rapt." It is used once Shakespeare, in *Cymbeline*, i., 6, 51, "What, dear sir, thus 1 you?"

Pay such as do redeem them from the oar.

I come not to entrap you; but aloud
Pronounce that you are manumized: and to make
Your liberty sweeter, you shall see her fall,
This empress,—this Domitia,—what you will,—
That triumphed in your miseries.

Domitil. Were you serious, To prove your accusation I could lend Some help.

Cæn. And I.

Ful. And I.

Aret. No atom to me .-

My eyes and ears are everywhere; I know all, To the line and action in the play that took her: Her quick dissimulation to excuse Her being transported, with her morning passion. I bribed the boy that did convey the letter, And, having perused it, made it up again: Your griefs and angers are to me familiar;—That Paris is brought to her, and how far He shall be tempted.

Domitil. This is above wonder.

Aret. My gold can work much stranger miracles

Than to corrupt poor waiters. Here, join with me—

[Takes out a petition.]

'Tis a complaint to Cæsar. This is that Shall ruin her and raise you. Have you set your hands To the accusation?

Jul. And will justify What we've subscribed to.

Can. And with vehemency.

Domitil. I will deliver it.

Aret. Leave the rest to me then.

Enter CÆSAR, with his Guard.

Cas. Let our lieutenants bring us victory, While we enjoy the fruits of peace at home;

And, being secured from our intestine foes (Far worse than foreign enemies), doubts and fears, Though all the sky were hung with blazing meteors, Which fond astrologers give out to be Assured presages of the change of empires And deaths of monarchs, we, undaunted yet, Guarded with our own thunder, bid defiance To them and fate, we being too strongly armed For them to wound us.

Aret. Cæsar!

Ful. As thou art

More than a man-

Can. Let not thy passions be

Rebellious to thy reason——

Domitil. But receive

Delivers the petition.

This trial of your constancy, as unmoved As you go to or from the Capitol, Thanks given to Jove for triumphs.

Cæs. Ha!

Domitil. Vouchsafe

Awhile to stay the lightning of your eyes, Poor mortals dare not look on.

Aret. There's no vein

Of yours that rises with high rage, but is An earthquake to us.

Domitil. And, if not kept closed With more than human patience, in a moment Will swallow us to the centre.

Can. Not that we

Repine to serve her, are we her accusers.

Jul. But that she's fallen so low.

Aret. Which on sure proofs

We can make good.

Domitil. And show she is unworthy Of the least spark of that diviner fire You have conferred upon her.

¹ Foolish.

Cæs. I stand doubtful. And unresolved what to determine of you. In this malicious violence you have offered . To the altar of her truth and pureness to me. You have but fruitlessly laboured to sully A white robe of perfection, black-mouthed envy Could belch no spot on .- But I will put off The deity you labour to take from me, And argue out of probabilities with you, As if I were a man. Can I believe That she, that borrows all her light from me, And knows to use it, would betray her darkness To your intelligence; and make that apparent Which, by her perturbations in a play, Was yesterday but doubted, and find none But you, that are her slaves, and therefore hate her, Whose aids she might employ to make way for her? . Or Arctinus, whom long since she knew To be the cabinet counsellor, nay, the key Of Cæsar's secrets? Could her beauty raise her To this unequalled height, to make her fall The more remarkable? or must my desires To her, and wrongs to Lamia, be revenged By her, and on herself, that drew on both? Or she leave our imperial bed, to court A public actor?

Arct. Who dares contradict

These more than human reasons, that have power

To clothe base guilt in the most glorious shape

Of innocence?

Domitil. Too well she knew the strength And eloquence of her patron to defend her, And, thereupon presuming, fell securely; Not fearing an accuser, nor the truth Produced against her, which your love and favour Will ne'er discern from falsehood.

Cas. I'll not hear

A syllable more that may invite a change In my opinion of her. You have raised A fiercer war within me by this fable. Though with your lives you vow to make it story, Than if, and at one instant, all my legions Revolted from me, and came armed against me. Here in this paper are the swords predestined For my destruction; here the fatal stars, That threaten more than ruin; this the death's head That does assure me, if she can prove false, That I am mortal, which a sudden fever Would prompt me to believe, and faintly yield to. But now in my full confidence what she suffers, In that, from any witness but myself, I nourish a suspicion she's untrue. My toughness returns to me. Lead on, monsters, And, by the forfeit of your lives, confirm She is all excellence, as you all baseness; Or let mankind, for her fall, boldly swear There are no chaste wives now, nor ever were. [Exeunt.



SCENE II.—A private Walk in the Gardens of the Palace.

Enter Domitia, Paris, and Servants.

Dom. Say we command, that none presume to dare, On forfeit of our favour, that is life, Out of a saucy curiousness, to stand Within the distance of their eyes or ears, Till we please to be waited on.

[Execunt Servants.]

And, sirrah,

Howe'er you are excepted, let it not Beget in you an arrogant opinion 'Tis done to grace you.

Par. With my humblest service

I but obey your summons, and should blush else, To be so near you.

Dom. 'Twould become you rather
To fear the greatness of the grace vouchsafed you
May overwhelm you; and 'twill do no less,
If, when you are rewarded, in your cups
You boast this privacy.

Par. That were, mightiest empress, To play with lightning.

Dom. You conceive it right.

The means to kill or save is not alone
In Cæsar circumscribed; for, if incensed,
We have our thunder too, that strikes as deadly.

Par. 'Twould ill become the lowness of my fortune To question what you can do, but with all Humility to attend what is your will, And then to serve it.

Dom. And would not a secret, Suppose we should commit it to your trust, Scald you to keep it?

Par. Though it raged within me
Till I turned cinders, it should ne'er have vent.
To be an age a-dying, and with torture,
Only to be thought worthy of your counsel,¹
Or actuate² what you command to me,
A wretched obscure thing, not worth your knowledge,
Were a perpetual happiness.

Dom. We could wish

That we could credit thee, and cannot find In reason but that thou, whom oft I have seen To personate a gentleman, noble, wise, Faithful, and gainsome,³ and what virtues else The poet pleases to adorn you with,

¹ Secret, as in Love's Labour's Lost, v. 2, 141:

"Their several counsels they unbosom shall."

We still use the expression, "to keep counsel."

² Put into action.

³ Meaning, probably, "gainly," or, perhaps, "winsome."

But that (as vessels still partake the odour Of the sweet precious liquors they contained 1) Thou must be really, in some degree, The thing thou dost present.—Nay, do not tremble; We seriously believe it, and presume Our Paris is the volume in which all Those excellent gifts the stage hath seen him graced with Are curiously bound up.

Par. The argument
Is the same, great Augusta, that I, acting
A fool, a coward, a traitor, or cold cynic,
Or any other weak and vicious person,
Of force ² I must be such. O, gracious madam,
How glorious soever, or deformed,
I do appear in the scene, my part being ended,
And all my borrowed ornaments put off,
I am no more, nor less, than what I was
Before I entered.

Dom. Come, you would put on A wilful ignorance, and not understand What 'tis we point at. Must we in plain language, Against the decent modesty of our sex, Say that we love thee, love thee to enjoy thee; Or that in our desires thou art preferred, And Cæsar but thy second? Thou in justice, If from the height of majesty we can Look down upon thy lowness, and embrace it, Art bound with fervour to look up to me.

Par. O, madam! hear me with a patient ear, And be but pleased to understand the reasons That do deter me from a happiness Kings would be rivals for. Caa I, that owe My life, and all that's mine, to Cæsar's bounties,

Not a bad rendering of Horace, Ep. i. 2, 69: "Quo semel est imbuta recens, servabit odorem Testa diu."

² Necessarily.

Beyond my hopes or merits, showered upon me, Make payment for them with ingratitude, Falsehood and treason! Though you have a shape Might tempt Hippolytus, and larger power To help or hurt than wanton Phædra had, Let loyalty and duty plead my pardon, Though I refuse to satisfy.

Dom. You are coy,

Expecting I should court you. Let mean ladies Use prayers and entreaties to their creatures To rise up instruments to serve their pleasures; But for Augusta so to lose herself,
That holds command o'er Cæsar and the world,
Were poverty of spirit. Thou must—thou shalt:
The violence of my passions knows no mean,
And in my punishments and my rewards
I'll use no moderation. Take this only,
As a caution from me: threadbare chastity
Is poor in the advancement of her servants,
But wantonness magnificent; and 'tis frequent
To have the salary of vice weigh down
The pay of virtue. So, without more trifling,
Thy sudden answer.

Par. In what a strait am I brought in! ¹
Alas! I know that the denial's death;
Nor can my grant, discovered, threaten more.
Yet to die innocent, and have the glory
For all posterity to report that I
Refused an empress, to preserve my faith
To my great master, in true judgment must
Show fairer than to buy a guilty life
With wealth and honours. 'Tis the base I build on:
I dare not, must not, will not.

Dom. How! contemned?

[Aside.] Since hopes, nor fears, in the extremes, prevail not.

¹ Compare p. 66, "Of which, if again I could be ignorant of."

I must use a mean.—Think who 'tis sues to thee. Deny not that yet, which a brother may Grant to a sister: as a testimony

Enter Cæsar, Aretinus, Julia, Domitilla, Cænis, and a Guard, behind.

I am not scorned, kiss me;—kiss me again;— Kiss closer. Thou art now my Trojan Paris, And I thy Helen.

Par. Since it is your will.

Cas. And I am Menelaus: but I shall be Something I know not yet.

Dom. Why lose we time

And opportunity? These are but salads To sharpen appetite: let us to the feast,

[Courting PARIS wantonly.

Where I shall wish that thou wert Jupiter, And I Alcmena; and that I had power To lengthen out one short night into three, And so beget a Hercules.

Cas. [Comes forward.] While Amphitrio Stands by, and draws the curtains.

Par. Oh!---

Falls on his face.1

Dom. Betrayed!

Cas. No; taken in a net of Vulcan's filing,
Where, in myself, the theatre of the gods
Are sad spectators, not one of them daring
To witness, with a smile, he does desire
To be so shamed for all the pleasure that
You've sold your being for! What shall I name thee?
Ingrateful, treacherous, insatiate, all
Invectives which, in bitterness of spirit,
Wronged men have breathed out against wicked women,

² This stage-direction being in the quarto, I have preserved it in the text, as it would seem to have been followed by the actors of the time: but surely nothing could be more preposterous than such an action on the part of such a man.

1

Cannot express thee! Have I raised thee from Thy low condition to the height of greatness, Command, and majesty, in one base act To render me, that was, before I hugged thee, An adder, in my bosom, more than man, A thing beneath a beast! Did I force these Of mine own blood, as handmaids to kneel to Thy pomp and pride, having myself no thought But how with benefits to bind thee mine; And am I thus rewarded! Not a knee, Nor tear, nor sign of sorrow for thy fault? Break, stubborn silence: what canst thou allege To stay my vengeance?

Dom. This. Thy lust compelled me To be a strumpet, and mine hath returned it In my intent and will, though not in act, To cuckold thee.

Cas. O, impudence! take her hence, And let her make her entrance into hell. By leaving life with all the tortures that Flesh can be sensible of. Yet stay. What power Her beauty still holds o'er my soul, that wrongs Of this unpardonable nature cannot teach me To right myself, and hate her!—Kill her.—Hold! O that my dotage should increase from that Which should breed detestation! By Minerva. If I look on her longer, I shall melt, And sue to her, my injuries forgot, Again to be received into her favour; Could honour yield to it! Carry her to her chamber: Be that her prison, till in cooler blood I shall determine of her. Exit Guard with DOMITIA. Aret. Now step I in, While he's in this calm mood, for my reward.— Sir, if my service hath deserved—

Cæs. Yes, yes:

And I'll reward thee. Thou hast robbed me of

All rest and peace, and been the principal means
To make me know that, of which if again
I could be ignorant of, I would purchase it
With the loss of empire. [Re-enter Guard.] Strangle him;
take these hence too.

And lodge them in the dungeon. Could your reason, Dull wretches, flatter you with hope to think
That this discovery, that hath showered upon me
Perpetual vexation, should not fall
Heavy on you? Away with them !—stop their mouths;

I will hear no reply.

[Exit Guard with Aretinus, Julia, Cænis, and

O, Paris, Paris!

DOMITILLA.

How shall I argue with thee? how begin
To make thee understand, before I kill thee,
With what grief and unwillingness 'tis forced from me?
Yet, in respect I have favoured thee, I'll hear
What thou canst speak to qualify or excuse
Thy readiness to serve this woman's lust;
And wish thou couldst give me such satisfaction,
As I might bury the remembrance of it.
Look up: we stand attentive.

Par. O, dread Cæsar!

To hope for life, or plead in the defence
Of my ingratitude, were again to wrong you.
I know I have deserved death; and my suit is,
That you would hasten it: yet, that your highness,
When I am dead, (as sure I will not live,)
May pardon me, I'll only urge my frailty,
Her will, and the temptation of that beauty
Which you could not resist. How could poor I, then,
Fly that which followed me, and Cæsar sued for?
This is all. And now your sentence.

Cas. Which I know not

How to pronounce. O that thy fault had been
But such as I might pardon! If thou hadst

In wantonness, like Nero, fired proud Rome, Betrayed an army, butchered the whole Senate, Committed sacrilege, or any crime The justice of our Roman laws calls death, I had prevented any intercession, And freely signed thy pardon.

Par. But for this.

Alas! you cannot, nay, you must not, sir;
Nor let it to posterity be recorded,
That Cæsar, unrevenged, suffered a wrong
Which, if a private man should sit down with it,
Cowards would baffle him.

Cas. With such true feeling
Thou arguest against thyself that it
Works more upon me than if my Minerva,
The grand protectress of my life and empire,
On forfeit of her favour, cried aloud,
"Casar, show mercy!" and, I know not how,
I am inclined to it. Rise. I'll promise nothing;
Yet clear thy cloudy fears, and cherish hopes.
What we must do, we shall do: we remember
A tragedy we oft have seen with pleasure,
Called The False Servant.

Par. Such a one we have, sir.

Cas. In which a great lord takes to his protection A man forlorn, giving him ample power To order and dispose of his estate In's absence, he pretending then a journey; But yet with this restraint, that, on no terms, (This lord suspecting his wife's constancy, She having played false to a former husband) The servant, though solicited, should consent, Though she commanded him, to quench her flames.

Par. That was, indeed, the argument.

Cæs. And what

Didst thou play in it?

Par. The false servant, sir.

Cas. Thou didst, indeed. Do the players wait without?

Par. They do, sir, and prepared to act the story Your majesty mentioned.

Cas. Call them in. Who presents The injured lord?

Enter Æsopus, Latinus, and a Lady.

Æsop. 'Tis my part, sir.

Cas. Thou didst not

Do it to the life; we can perform it better.

Off with my robe and wreath: since Nero scorned not
The public theatre, we in private may
Disport ourselves. This cloak and hat, without
Wearing a beard or other property,

Will fit the person.

Æsop. Only, sir, a foil, The point and edge rebated, when you act, To do the murder. If you please to use this, And lay aside your own sword.

Cæs. By no means:

In jest nor earnest this parts never from me, We'll have but one short scene—that where the lady In an imperious way commands the servant To be unthankful to his patron: when My cue's to enter, prompt me.—Nay, begin, And do it sprightly: though but a new actor, When I come to execution, you shall find No cause to laugh at me.

Lat. In the name of wonder, What's Cæsar's purpose!

Æsop. There is no contending.

¹ The quarto reads "rebutted," an obvious misprint. Rebated (from the French rabattre) means blunted, as in the single instance of it in Shakespeare, Measure for Measure, i., 4, 60:

[&]quot;But doth rebate and blunt his natural edge."

Cas. Why, when 1? Par. I am armed:

And, stood grim Death now in my view, and his Unevitable² dart aimed at my breast, His cold embraces should not bring an ague To any of my faculties, till his pleasures Were served and satisfied; which done, Nestor's years To me would be unwelcome.

Lady. Must we entreat,

That were born to command? or court a servant, That owes his food and clothing to our bounty, For that which thou ambitiously shouldst kneel for? Urge not, in thy excuse, the favours of Thy absent lord, or that thou stand'st engaged For thy life to his charity; nor thy fears Of what may follow, it being in my power To mould him any way.

Par. As you may me,
In what his reputation is not wounded,
Nor I, his creature, in my thankfulness suffer.
I know you're young, and fair; be virtuous too,
And loyal to his bed, that hath advanced you
To the height of happiness.

Lady. Can my love-sick heart

Be cured with counsel? or durst reason ever

Offer to put in an exploded plea

In the court of Venus? My desires admit not

The least delay; and therefore instantly

Give me to understand what I shall trust to:

For, if I am refused, and not enjoy

Those ravishing pleasures from thee I run mad for,

I'll swear unto my lord, at his return,

(Making what I deliver good with tears,)

That brutishly thou wouldst have forced from me

What I make suit for. And then but imagine

What 'tis to die, with these words, "slave and traitor,"

¹ A common exclamation of impatience, implying "when will it be done?"

² See Eote, p. 49.

now:

With burning corsives 1 writ upon thy forehead, And live prepared for t.

Par. [Aside] This he will believe
Upon her information, 'tis apparent;
And then I'm nothing; and of two extremes,
Wisdom says, choose the less.—Rather than fall
Under your indignation, I will yield:
This kiss, and this, confirms it.

Æsop. Now, sir, now.

Cas. I must take them at it?

Æsop. Yes, sir; be but perfect.

Cas. "O villain! thankless villain!"—I should talk But I've forgot my part. But I can do:
Thus, thus, and thus!

[Stabs Paris.]

Par. Oh! I am slain in earnest.

Cæs. 'Tis true; and 'twas my purpose, my good Paris: And yet, before life leaves thee, let the honour I've done thee in thy death bring comfort to thee. If it had been within the power of Cæsar, His dignity preserved, he had pardoned thee: But cruelty of honour did deny it. Yet, to confirm I loved thee, 'twas my study To make thy end more glorious, to distinguish My Paris from all others; and in that Have shown my pity. Nor would I let thee fall By a centurion's sword, or have thy limbs Rent piecemeal by the hangman's hook, however Thy crime deserved it; but, as thou didst live Rome's bravest actor, 'twas my plot that thou Shouldst die in action, and, to crown it, die, With an applause enduring to all times, By our imperial hand,2—His soul is freed

^{1 &}quot;Corsive" is a frequent, almost constant, contraction of "corrosive."

² Compare Une Mort Héroïque, the twenty-seventh of Baudelaire's Petits Poèmes en Prose—an exquisite little masterpiece, the story of which has a distinct resemblance to Massinger's effective device here.

From the prison of his flesh; let it mount upward!

And for this trunk, when that the funeral pile

Hath made it ashes, we'll see it enclosed

In a golden urn; poets adorn his hearse

With their most ravishing sorrows, and the stage

For ever mourn him, and all such as were

His glad spectators weep his sudden death,

The cause forgotten in his epitaph.

[Sad music; the Players bear off Paris' body, CÆSAR and the rest following.





ACT THE FIFTH.

SCENE I.—A Room in the Palace, with an image of Minerva.

Enter Parthenius, Stephanos, and Guard.

ARTH. Keep a strong guard upon him, and admit not Access to any, to exchange a word Or syllable with him, till the emperor pleases

To call him to his presence.—[Exit Guard.]—The relation

That you have made me, Stephanos, of these late Strange passions in Cæsar, much amaze me. The informer Aretinus put to death For yielding him a true discovery Of the empress' wantonness; poor Paris killed first, And now lamented; and the princesses Confined to several islands; yet Augusta, The machine on which all this mischief moved, Received again to grace!

Steph. Nay, courted to it:
Such is the impotence of his affection!
Yet, to conceal his weakness, he gives out
The people made suit for her, whom they hate more
Than civil war, or famine. But take heed,
My lord, that, nor in your consent nor wishes,
You lend or furtherance or favour to
The plot contrived against her: should she prove it,

¹ i.e. Ascletario.

² Uncontrollableness (Lat., impotens).

Nay, doubt it only, you are a lost man, Her power o'er doting Cæsar being now Greater than ever.

Parth. 'Tis a truth I shake at;
And, when there's opportunity——
Steph. Say but, Do,
I am yours, and sure.
Parth. I'll stand one trial more,
And then you shall hear from me.
Steph. Now observe

The fondness¹ of this tyrant, and her pride.

[They stand aside.

Enter CESAR and DOMITIA.

Cas. Nay, all's forgotten.

Dom. It may be, on your part.

Cæs. Forgiven too, Domitia:—'tis a favour That you should welcome with more cheerful looks. Can Cæsar pardon what you durst not hope for, That did the injury, and yet must sue To her, whose guilt is washed off by his mercy, Only to entertain it?

Dom. I asked none:

And I should be more wretched to receive
Remission for what I hold no crime,
But by a bare acknowledgment, than if,
By slighting and contemning it, as now,
I dared thy utmost fury. Though thy flatterers
Persuade thee that thy murders, lusts, and rapes,
Are virtues in thee; and what pleases Cæsar,
Though never so unjust, is right and lawful;
Or work in thee a false belief that thou
Art more than mortal; yet I to thy teeth,
When circled with thy guards, thy rods, thy axes,
And all the ensigns of thy boasted power,
Will say, Domitian, nay, add to it Cæsar,

Is a weak, feeble man, a bondman to His violent passions, and in that my slave; Nay, more my slave than my affections made me To my loved Paris.

Cas. Can I live and hear this?

Or hear, and not revenge it? Come, you know The strength that you hold on me; do not use it With too much cruelty; for, though 'tis granted That Lydian Omphale had less command O'er Hercules than you usurp o'er me, Reason may teach me to shake off the yoke Of my fond dotage.

Dom. Never; do not hope it:
It cannot be. Thou being my beauty's captive,
And not to be redeemed, my empire's larger
Than thine, Domitian, which I'll exercise
With rigour on thee, for my Paris' death.
And, when I've forced those eyes, now red with fury,
To drop down tears, in vain spent to appease me,
I know thy fervour such to my embraces,
Which shall be, though still kneeled for, still denied thee,
That thou with languishment shalt wish my actor
Did live again, so thou mightst be his second
To feed upon those delicates, when he's sated.

Cæs. O my Minerva!

Dom. There she is, [Points to the statue] invoke her: She cannot arm thee with ability
To draw thy sword on me, my power being greater: Or only say to thy centurions,
"Dare none of you do what I shake to think on,
And, in this woman's death, remove the Furies
That every hour afflict me?"—Lamia's wrongs,
When thy lust forced me from him, are, in me,
At the height revenged; nor would I outlive Paris,
But that thy love, increasing with my hate,
May add unto thy torments; so, with all
Contempt I can, I leave thee.

[Exil.

Cæs. I am lost;

Nor am I Cæsar. When I first betrayed The freedom of my faculties and will To this imperious siren, I laid down The empire of the world, and of myself,

At her proud feet. Sleep all my ireful powers?

Or is the magic of my dotage such,

That I must still make suit to hear those charms

That do increase my thraldom? Wake, my anger! For shame, break through this lethargy, and appear

With usual terror, and enable me,

Since I wear not a sword to pierce her heart, Nor have a tongue to say this, "Let her die,"

Though his done with a force shaken hand

Though 'tis done with a fever-shaken hand,

[Pulls out a table-book.

To sign her death. Assist me, great Minerva,

And vindicate thy votary! [Writes.] So; she's now Among the list of those I have proscribed,

And are, to free me of my doubts and fears,

To die to-morrow.

Steph. That same fatal book

Was never drawn yet, but some men of rank

Were marked out for destruction.

Exit.

Parth. I begin

To doubt myself.

Cas. Who waits there?

Parth. [Coming forward.] Cæsar.

Cas. So!

These that command armed troops, quake at my frowns,

And yet a woman slights them. Where's the wizard We charged you to fetch in?

Parth. Ready to suffer

What death you please to appoint him.

Cas. Bring him in.

We'll question him ourself.

Enter Tribunes, and Guard with ASCLETARIO.

Now, you, that hold

Intelligence with the stars, and dare prefix The day and hour in which we are to part With life and empire, punctually foretelling The means and manner of our violent end; As you would purchase credit to your art, Resolve me, since you are assured of us, What fate attends yourself?

Ascle. I have had long since
A certain knowledge, and, as sure as thou
Shalt die to-morrow, being the fourteenth of
The kalends of October, the hour five,
Spite of prevention, this carcass shall be
Torn and devoured by dogs;—and let that stand
For a firm prediction.

Cas. May our body, wretch,
Find never nobler sepulchre, if this
Fall ever on thee! Are we the great disposer
Of life and death, we cannot mock the stars
In such a trifle? Hence with the impostor;
And, having cut his throat, erect a pile,
Guarded with soldiers, till his cursed trunk
Be burned to ashes: upon forfeit of
Your life, and theirs, perform it.

Ascle. 'Tis in vain;

When what I have foretold is made apparent, Tremble to think what follows.

Cæs. Drag him hence,

[The Tribunes and Guard bear off ASCLETARIO.

And do as I command you. I was never Fuller of confidence; for, having got The victory of my passions, in my freedom From proud Domitia, (who shall cease to live, Since she disdains to love,) I rest unmoved: And, in defiance of prodigious meteors,

Chaldæans' vain predictions, jealous fears Of my near friends and freedmen, certain hate Of kindred and alliance, or all terrors The soldier's doubted faith, or people's rage, Can bring to shake my constancy, I am armed. That scrupulous thing styled conscience is seared up. And I insensible of all my actions, For which, by moral and religious fools, I stand condemned, as they had never been. And, since I have subdued triumphant love, I will not deify pale captive fear, Nor in a thought receive it: for, till thou, Wisest Minerva, that from my first youth Hast been my sole protectress, dost forsake me. Not Iunius Rusticus' threatened apparition, Nor what this soothsayer but even now foretold, Being things impossible to human reason, Shall in a dream disturb me. Bring my couch there; A sudden but a secure 1 drowsiness Invites me to repose myself. [A couch brought in.] Let music. With some choice ditty, second it.—[Exit PARTHENIUS.] -I' the mean time, Rest there, dear book, which opened, when I wake. Lays the book under his pillow.

Shall make some sleep for ever.

[Music and a song. CÆSAR sleeps.

Re-enter Parthenius and Domitia.

Dom. Write my name
In his bloody scroll, Parthenius! the fear's idle:
He durst not, could not.

Parth. I can assure nothing;
But I observed, when you departed from him,

1 "Secure" is accented on the first syllable. Compare Hamlet, i., 5, 61: "Upon my secure hour your uncle stole."

After some little passion, but much fury,
He drew it out: whose death he signed, I know not;
But in his looks appeared a resolution
Of what before he staggered at. What he hath
Determined of is uncertain, but too soon
Will fall on you, or me, or both, or any,
His pleasure known to the tribunes and centurions,
Who never use to inquire his will, but serve it.
Now, if, out of the confidence of your power,
The bloody catalogue being still about him,
As he sleeps you dare peruse it, or remove it,
You may instruct yourself, or what to suffer,
Or how to cross it.

Dom. I would not be caught
With too much confidence. By your leave, sir. Ha!
No motion!—you lie uneasy, sir,
Let me mend your pillow.

[Takes away the book,

Parth. Have you it?

Dom. 'Tis here.

Cæs. Oh!

Parth. You have waked him: softly, gracious madam, While we are unknown 1; and then consult at leisure.

[Exeunt.

Dreadful music. The apparitions of Junius Rusticus and Palphurius Sura rise, with bloody swords in their hands; they wave them over the head of Cæsar, who seems troubled in his sleep, and as if praying to the image of Minerva, which they scornfully seize, and then disappear with it.

Cas. [Starting.] Defend me, goddess, or this horrid dream

Will force me to distraction! whither have These Furies borne thee? Let me rise and follow.

¹ i.e. Till we are out of his sight. For "while," in the sense of "till," compare Macheth, iii. 1, 44: "While then, God be with you!"

I am bathed o'er with the cold sweat of death, And am deprived of organs to pursue These sacrilegious spirits. Am I at once Robbed of my hopes and being? No. I live—

Rises distractedly.

Yes, live, and have discourse¹, to know myself Of gods and men forsaken. What accuser Within me cries aloud, I have deserved it. In being just to neither? Who dares speak this? Am I not Cæsar?—How! again repeat it? Presumptuous traitor, thou shalt die!--What traitor? He that hath been a traitor to himself. And stands convicted here. Vet who can sit A competent judge o'er Cæsar? Cæsar. Yes. Cæsar by Cæsar's sentenced, and must suffer: Minerva cannot save him. Ha! where is she? Where is my goddess? vanished! I am lost then. No: 'twas no dream, but a most real truth, That Junius Rusticus and Palphurius Sura, Although their ashes were cast in the sea, Were by their innocence made up again, And in corporeal forms but now appeared, Waving their bloody swords above my head, As at their deaths they threatened. And methought Minerva, ravished hence, whispered that she Was, for my blasphemies, disarmed by Jove, And could no more protect me. Yes, 'twas so. [Thunder and lightning.

His thunder does confirm it, against which, Howe'er it spare the laurel, this proud wreath

Enter three Tribunes.

Is no assurance.—Ha! come you resolved To be my executioners? 1st Trib. Allegiance

Reason. More precisely, "range of reasoning faculty."

And faith forbid that we should lift an arm i i Against your sacred head. 2nd Trib. We rather sue ł. For mercy. d 3rd Trib. And acknowledge that in justice 1 (Our lives are forfeited for not performing What Cæsar charged us. 1st Trib. Nor did we transgress it In our want of will or care; for, being but men, It could not be in us to make resistance. The gods fighting against us. Cæs. Speak, in what

Did they express their anger? we will hear it, But dare not say, undaunted.

1st Trib. In brief thus, sir:

The sentence given by your imperial tongue, For the astrologer Ascletario's death, With speed was put in execution.

Cæs. Well.

1st Trib. For, his throat cut, his legs bound, and arms

Pinioned behind his back, the breathless trunk Was with all scorn dragged to the Field of Mars, And there, a pile being raised of old dry wood, Smeared o'er with oil and brimstone, or what else Could help to feed or to increase the fire. The carcass was thrown on it; but no sooner The stuff, that was most apt, began to flame, But suddenly, to the amazement of The fearless soldier, a sudden flash Of lightning, breaking through the scattered clouds, With such a horrid violence forced its passage, And as disdaining all heat but itself, In a moment quenched the artificial fire: And, before we could kindle it again, A clap of thunder followed, with such noise As if then Jove, incensed against mankind,

H... in his secret purposes determined An universal ruin to the world.

horror past, not at Deucalion's flood
a stormy shower of rain (and yet that word is
narrow to express it) was e'er seen:
ine rather, sir, that with less fury
waves rush down the cataracts of Nile;
It that the sea, spouted into the air
the angry Orc, endangering tall ships
sailing near it, so falls down again.
there the wonder ends not, but begins:
For, as in vain we laboured to consume
The witch's body, all the dogs of Rome,
Howling and yelling like to famished wolves,
I rake in upon us; and, though thousands were
filled in th' attempt, some did ascend the pile,

Cas. But have they torn it?

1st Trib. Torn it, and devoured it.

Cas. I then am a dead man, since all predictions Assure me I am lost. O, my loved soldiers, Your emperor must leave you! yet, however I cannot grant myself a short reprieve, I freely pardon you. The fatal hour Steals fast upon me: I must die this morning By five, my soldiers; that's the latest hour You e'er must see me living.

And with their eager fangs seized on the carcass.

1st Trib. Jove avert it!

¹ An indeterminate sea-monster. Compare Ben Jonson, *Masque of Neptune* (quoted by Nares):

[&]quot;Now turn and view the wonders of the deep, Where Proteus' herds and Neptune's orcs do keep."

² From Coxeter to Cunningham, every editor has altered the "witches" of the original into the modern term "wizard's." But in Massinger's time witch was used of men as well as of women (see Cymbeline, i. 6, 166). Reginald Scot, giving a tale from Danaus in the Epistle "To the Readers" of the Discoverie of Witchcraft, says: "I will requite Danaus his tale of a manwitch (as he termeth him) with another witch of the same sex or gender."

In our swords lies your fate, and we will guard it.

Cas. O no, it cannot be; it is decreed

Above, and by no strengths¹ here to be altered.

Let proud mortality but look on Cæsar,

Compassed of late with armies, in his eyes

Carrying both life and death, and in his arms

Fathoming the earth; that would be styled a god,

And is, for that presumption, cast beneath

The low condition of a common man,

Sinking with mine own weight.

Ist Trib. Do not forsake Yourself, we'll never leave you. 2nd Trib. We'll draw up

More cohorts of your guard, if you doubt treason.

Cas. They cannot save me. The offended gods, That now sit judges on me, from their envy

Of my power and greatness here, conspire against me.

1st Trib. Endeavour to appease them.

Cæs. 'Twill be fruitless:

I am past hope of remission. Yet, could I Decline² this dreadful hour of five, these terrors, That drive me to despair, would soon fly from me: And could you but till then assure me——

1st Trib. Yes, sir;

Or we'll fall with you, and make Rome the urn In which we'll mix our ashes.

Cæs. 'Tis said nobly:

I am something comforted: howe'er, to die Is the full period of calamity.

[Exeunt.

1 "Strengths" in the plural often occurs in Massinger. Compare Prologue to *The Guardian*.

² Avoid. One of the equivalents given by Coles in his Latin Dictionary is evito; Boyer translates fuir, éviter, éluder.



SCENE II.—Another Room in the Palace.

Enter Parthenius, Domitia, Julia, Cænis, Domitilla, Stephanos, Sejeius, and Entellus.

Parth. You see we are all condemned; there's no evasion;

We must do, or suffer.

Steph. But it must be sudden;

The least delay is mortal.

Dom. Would I were

A man, to give it action!

Domitil. Could I make my approaches, though my stature

Does promise little, I have a spirit as daring As hers that can reach higher.

Steph. I will take

That burthen from you, madam. All the art is,
To draw him from the tribunes that attend him;
For, could you bring him but within my sword's reach,
The world should owe her freedom from a tyrant
To Stephanos.

Sej. You shall not share alone The glory of a deed that will endure To all posterity.

Ent. I will put in

For a part, myself.

Parth. Be resolute, and stand close.

I have conceived a way, and with the hazard Of my life I'll practise it, to fetch him hither.

But then no trifling.

Steph. We'll dispatch him, fear not:

A dead dog never bites.

Parth. Thus then at all.1

[Exit; the rest conceal themselves.

1 A gaming term, meaning that the player will take up any stakes.

Enter CÆSAR and the Tribunes.

Cas. How slow-paced are these minutes! in extrem How miserable is the least delay! Could I imp feathers to the wings of time. Or with as little ease command the sun To scourge his coursers up heaven's eastern hill. Making the hour I tremble at, past recalling, As I can move this dial's tongue to six; My veins and arteries, emptied with fear. Would fill and swell again. How do I look? Do you yet see Death about me? 1st Trib. Think not of him: There is no danger: all these prodigies That do affright you, rise from natural causes; And though you do ascribe them to yourself. Had you ne'er been, had happened.

Cæs. 'Tis well said,

Exceeding well, brave soldier. Can it be, That I, that feel myself in health and strength, Should still believe I am so near my end, And have my guards about me? Perish all Predictions! I grow constant they are false, And built upon uncertainties.

1st Trib. This is right; Now Cæsar's heard like Cæsar.

Cæs. We will to

The camp, and having there confirmed the soldier With a large donative, and increase of pay, Some shall——I say no more.

Re-enter Parthenius.

Parth. All happiness,
Security, long life, attend upon
The monarch of the world!
Cas. Thy looks are cheerful.
Parth. And my relation full of joy and wonder.
Why is the care of your imperial body,

1 Assured.

My lord, neglected, the feared hour being past, In which your life was threatened?

Cas. Is't past five?

Parth. Past six, upon my knowledge; and, in justice, Y our clock-master should die, that hath deferred Y our peace so long. There is a post new lighted, T hat brings assured intelligence that your legions In Syria have won a glorious day, And much enlarged your empire. I have kept him Concealed, that you might first partake the pleasure In private, and the Senate from yourself

Be taught to understand how much they owe

To you and to your fortune.

Cas. Hence, pale fear, then! Lead me, Parthenius. 1st Trib. Shall we wait you?

Cas. No.

After losses guards are useful. Know your distance.

[Exeunt Cæsar and Parthenius. 2nd Trib. How strangely hopes delude men! as I live, The hour is not yet come.

1st Trib. Howe'er, we are

To pay our duties, and observe the sequel.

[Exeunt Tribunes. DOMITIA and the rest come forward. Dom. I hear him coming. Be constant.

Re-enter CÆSAR and PARTHENIUS.

Cas. Where, Parthenius,

Is this glad messenger?

Steph. Make the door fast.—Here;

A messenger of horror.

Cas. How! betrayed?

Dom. No; taken, tyrant.

Cas. My Domitia

In the conspiracy!

Parth. Behold this book.

Cas. Nay, then I am lost. Yet, though I am unarmed, I'll not fall poorly.

[Overthrows Stephanos.]

Steph. Help me.

Ent. Thus, and thus!

Sej. Are you so long a-falling? They stab him. Cæs. 'Tis done baselv.

Falls and dies.

Parth. This for my father's death.

Dom. This for my Paris,

Jul. This for thy incest.

Domitil. This for thy abuse

[They severally stab him. Of Domitilla.

Tribunes. [Within.] Force the doors!

Re-enter Tribunes.

O Mars !

What have you done?

Parth. What Rome shall give us thanks for.

Steph. Dispatched a monster.

1st Trib. Yet he was our prince,

However wicked; and, in you, this' murder,1-Which whosoe'er succeeds him will revenge:

Nor will we, that served under his command,

Consent that such a monster as thyself, [To Domitia.

(For in thy wickedness Augusta's title

Hath quite forsook thee,) thou, that wert the ground

Of all these mischiefs, shall go hence unpunished.

Lay hands on her and drag her to her² sentence.—

We will refer the hearing to the Senate,

Who may at their best leisure censure you.

Take up his body: he in death hath paid

For all his cruelties. Here's the difference:

Good kings are mourned for after life; but ill,

And such as governed only by their will,

And not their reason, unlamented fall;

No good man's tear shed at their funeral.

[Exeunt; the Tribunes bearing the body of CESAR.

i.e. This is murder. The contraction occurs several times in Shakespeare. 3 "Her" is not in the quarto.



THE FATAL DOWRY.









HE Fatal Dowry was first printed, in quarto, in 1632. The title-page runs: "The Fatall Dowry: A Tragedy. As it hath beene often Acted at the Prinate House in Blackefryers, by his Maiesties Seruants. Written by P. M. and N. F. London, Printed by John Norton, for

Francis Constable, and are to be sold at his shop at the Crane, in Pauls Church-yard. 1632." It is a badly printed book, the type is old and battered, and the general execution is very careless. None of the plays given in this volume (except *Believe as You List*) has its text in so corrupt a state.

The share of Massinger in this play is assigned by Mr. Robert Boyle, in a paper read before the New Shakspere Society, as follows: Act I.; Act III. i. to "Enter Novall, jun."; Act IV. ii., iii., iv.; Act V., with the exception of ii. 80—120, which were interpolated by Field. This division seems at least as reasonable as any other.

The Fatal Dowry was revived at Sadler's Wells, August 27th, 1845, Phelps playing Romont; Marston, Charalois; George Bennett, Rochfort; and Miss Cooper, Beaumelle.

It is well known that Rowe's Fair Penitent, formerly one of the most popular and extravagantly lauded plays on the stage, is founded on The Fatal Dowry. An elaborate comparison of the two plays was published by Richard Cumberland in the Observer, Nos. lxxvii.—lxxix. It is reprinted in Gifford's edition of Massinger.



ROCHFORT, Ex-Premier President of the Parliament of Dijon.

CHARALOIS, a noble Gentleman, Son of the deceased Marshal.

ROMONT, a brave Officer, friend to CHARALOIS.

NOVALL, senior, Premier President of the Parliament of Dijon.

NOVALL, junior, his Son, in love with BEAUMELLE. DU CROY, President of the Parliament of Dijon.

CHARMI, an Advocate.

BEAUMONT, Secretary to ROCHFORT.

PONTALIER, | Friends of Novall, junior.

LILADAM, a Parasite, dependent on NOVALL, junior.

AYMER, a Singer and Keeper of a Music-house, also dependent on NOVALL, junior.

Advocates.

Three Creditors.

A Priest.

Tailor.

Barber.

Perfumer.

Page.

Presidents, Captains, Soldiers, Mourners, Gaolers, Bailiffs, Servants.

BEAUMELLE, Daughter of ROCHFORT.

FLORIMEL, Servants to BEAUMELLE; the latter BELLAPERT, the secret agent of NOVALL, jun.

SCENE—DIJON.



THE FATAL DOWRY.

ACT THE FIRST.

SCENE I.—A Street before the Court of Justice.

Enter Charalois with a paper, Romont, and Charmi.

HARMI. Sir, I may move the court to serve your will;

But therein shall both wrong you and myself.

Rom. Why think you so, sir? Charmi. 'Cause I am familiar

With what will be their answer: they will say, 'Tis against law; and argue me of ignorance, For offering them the motion.

Rom. You know not, sir, How, in this cause, they may dispense with law; And therefore frame not you their answer for them, But do your parts.

Charmi. I love the cause so well, As I could run the hazard of a check for't.

Rom. From whom?

Charmi. Some of the bench, that watch to give it, More than to do the office that they sit for: But give me, sir, my fee.

Rom. Now you are noble. [Gives him his purse. Charmi. I shall deserve this better yet, in giving My lord some counsel, if he please to hear it,

Than I shall do with pleading.

Rom. What may it be, sir?

Charmi. That it would please his lordship, as the presi-And counsellors of court come by, to stand [dents Here, and but show himself, and to some one Or two, make his request:—there is a minute, When a man's presence speaks in his own cause, More than the tongues of twenty advocates.

Rom. I have urged that.

Enter ROCHFORT and Du CROY.

Charmi. Their lordships here are coming,
I must go get me a place. You'll find me in court,
And at your service. [Exit.

Rom. Now, put on 1 your spirits.

Du Croy. The ease that you prepare yourself, my lord, In giving up the place you hold in court, Will prove. I fear, a trouble in the state, And that no slight one.

Roch. Pray you, sir, no more.

Rom. Now, sir, lose not this offered means; their looks, Fixed on you with a pitying earnestness, Invite you to demand their furtherance To your good purpose:—this is such a dulness, So foolish and untimely, as—

Du Croy. You know him?

Roch. I do; and much lament the sudden fall Of his brave house. It is young Charalois, Son to the marshal, from whom he inherits His fame and virtues only.

Rom. Ha! they name you.

Du Croy. His father died in prison two days since.

Roch. Yes, to the shame of this ungrateful state;

That such a master in the art of war,

So noble, and so highly meriting

¹ Rouse.

From this forgetful country, should, for want Of means to satisfy his creditors The sums he took up for the general good, Meet with an end so infamous.

Rom. Dare you ever Hope for like opportunity?

Du Crov. My good lord!

They salute him as they pass by.

Roch. My wish bring comfort to you! Du Croy. The time calls us. Roch. Good morrow, colonel! 1

[Exeunt ROCHFORT and DU CROY.

Rom. This obstinate spleen, You think, becomes your sorrow, and sorts well With your black suits; but, grant me wit or judgment, And, by the freedom of an honest man, And a true friend to boot. I swear 'tis shameful. And therefore flatter not yourself with hope, Your sable habit, with the hat and cloak, No, though the ribands help, have power to work them To what you would: for those that had no eves To see the great acts of your father will not, From any fashion sorrow can put on, Be taught to know their duties.

Charal. If they will not,

They are too old to learn, and I too young To give them counsel; since, if they partake The understanding and the hearts of men, They will prevent 2 my words and tears: if not, What can persuasion, though made eloquent With grief, work upon such as have changed natures With the most savage beast? Blest, blest be ever

¹ Pronounce "colonel" as a trisyllable. Compare Hudibras, i. 13, 14:

[&]quot;Then did Sir Knight abandon dwelling, And out he rode a-colonelling."

² Anticipate.

The memory of that happy age, when justice Had no guards to keep off wronged innocence From flying to her succours, and, in that, Assurance of redress! where now, Romont, The damned with more ease may ascend from hell, Than we arrive at her. One Cerberus there Forbids the passage, in our courts a thousand, As loud and fertile-headed; and the client That wants the sops to fill their ravenous throats Must hope for no accèss: why should I, then, Attempt impossibilities; you, friend, being Too well acquainted with my dearth of means To make my entrance that way?

Rom. Would I were not!
But, sir, you have a cause, a cause so just,
Of such necessity, not to be deferred,
As would compel a maid, whose foot was never
Set o'er her father's threshold, nor within
The house where she was born ever spake word
Which was not ushered with pure virgin blushes,
To drown the tempest of a pleader's tongue,
And force corruption to give back the hire
It took against her. Let examples move you.
You see men great in birth, esteem, and fortune,
Rather than lose a scruple of their right,
Fawn basely upon such, whose gowns put off,
They would disdain for servants.

Charal. And to these Can I become a suitor?

Rom. Without loss,

Would you consider that, to gain their favours, Our chastest dames put off their modesties, Soldiers forget their honours, usurers Make sacrifice of gold, poets of wit, And men religious part with fame and goodness. Be therefore won to use the means that may Advance your pious ends. Charal. You shall o'ercome.

Rom. And you receive the glory. Pray you now Charal. 'Tis well. [practise.

Enter Novall, senior, Advocates, Liladam, and three Creditors.

[Tenders his petition.] Not look on me!

Rom. You must have patience—
Offer it again.

Charal. And be again contemned! Nov. sen. I know what's to be done.

1st Cred. And, that your lordship

Will please to do your knowledge, we offer first Our thankful hearts here, as a bounteous earnest To what we will add.

Nov. sen. One word more of this, I am your enemy. Am I a man Your bribes can work on? ha?

Lilad. [Aside to Creditors,] Friends, you mistake The way to win my lord; he must not hear this, But I, as one in favour, in his sight May hearken to you for my profit.—Sir! I pray hear them.

Nov. sen. 'Tis well.

Lilad. Observe him now.

Nov. sen. Your cause being good, and your proceed-Without corruption I am your friend; [ings so, Speak your desires.

and Cred. Oh, they are charitable;
The marshal stood engaged unto us three
Two hundred thousand crowns, which, by his death,
We are defeated of: for which great loss
We aim at nothing but his rotten flesh;
Nor is that cruelty.

1st Cred. I have a son That talks of nothing but of guns and armours, And swears he'll be a soldier; 'tis an humour I would divert him from; and I am told That if I minister to him, in his drink, Powder made of this bankrupt marshal's bones, Provided that the carcass rot above ground, 'Twill cure his foolish frenzy.

Nov. sen. You show in it

A father's care. I have a son myself,
A fashionable gentleman, and a peaceful;
And, but I am assured he's not so given,
He should take of it too.—Sir, what are you?

Charal. A gentleman.

Nov. sen. So are many that rake dunghills. If you have any suit, move it in court:

I take no papers in corners.

 $\int Ex$

Rom. Yes.

As the matter may be carried—and hereby To manage the conveyance——Follow him.

Lilad. You are rude: I say he shall not pass.

[Exeunt Charalois and Advocate

Rom. You say so! On what assurance?

For the well cutting of his lordship's corns, Picking his toes, or any office else

Nearer to baseness!

Lilad. Look upon me better; Are these the ensigns of so coarse a fellow? Be well advised.

Rom. Out, rogue! do not I know
These glorious weeds spring from the sordid dunghill
Of thy officious baseness? wert thou worthy
Of any thing from me, but my contempt,
I would do more than this,—[Kicks him.]—more, yo
court-spider!

Lilad. But that this man is lawless, he should find That I am valiant.

1st Cred. If your ears are fast, 'Tis nothing. What's a blow or two? as much.

2nd Cred. These chastisements as useful are as frequent **To such as would** grow rich.

Rom. Are they so, rascals? I will befriend you, then.

Kicks them.

1st Cred. Bear witness, sirs!

Lilad. Truth, I have borne my part already, friends: In the court you shall have more. [Exit.

Rom. I know you for

The worst of spirits, that strive to rob the tombs Of what is their inheritance, the dead:
For usurers, bred by a riotous peace,
That hold the charter of your wealth and freedom By being knaves and cuckolds; that ne'er prayed, But when you fear the rich heirs will grow wise,
To keep their lands out of your parchment toils,
And then the devil your father's called upon,
To invent some ways of luxury ne'er thought on.
Be gone, and quickly, or I'll leave no room
Upon your forehead for your horns to sprout on—
Without a murmur, or I will undo you;

For I will beat you honest.

1st Cred. Thrift forbid!

We will bear this, rather than hazard that.

[Exeunt Creditors.

Re-enter CHARALOIS.

Rom. I am somewhat eased in this yet.
Charal. Only friend,
To what vain purpose do I make my sorrow
Wait on the triumph of their cruelty?
Or teach their pride, from my humility,
To think it has o'ercome? They are determined
What they will do; and it may well become me,
To rob them of the glory they expect
From my submiss 1 entreaties.

Rom. Think not so, sir:

¹ Submissive. Nares quotes Du Bartas—"submiss voice," &c. Mass. II.

The difficulties that you encounter with Will crown the undertaking—Heaven! you weep; And I could do so too, but that I know There's more expected from the son and friend Of him whose fatal loss now shakes our natures. Than sighs or tears, in which a village nurse, Or cunning strumpet when her knave is hanged, May overcome us. We are men, young lord, Let us not do like women. To the court. And there speak like your birth: wake sleeping justice, Or dare the axe. This is a way will sort With what you are: I call you not to that I will shrink from myself; I will deserve Your thanks, or suffer with you—O how bravely That sudden fire of anger shows in you! Give fuel to it. Since you are on a shelf 1 Of extreme danger, suffer like yourself. [Exeunt.



SCENE II .- The Court of Justice.

Enter Rochfort, Novall, senior, Presidents, Charmi, Du Croy, Benumont, Advocates, three Creditors, and Officers.

Du Croy. Your lordships seated, may this meeting Prosperous to us, and to the general good [prove Of Burgundy!

Nov. sen. Speak to the point. Du Croy. Which is

With honour to dispose the place and power Of premier president, which this reverend man, Grave Rochfort, whom for honour's sake I name,

Is purposed to resign; a place, my lords, In which he hath with such integrity

1 Sandbank.

Performed the first and best parts of a judge That, as his life transcends all fair examples Of such as were before him in Dijon, So it remains to those that shall succeed him. A precedent they may imitate, but not equal.

Roch. I may not sit to hear this.

Du Crov. Let the love

And thankfulness we are bound to pay to goodness. In this o'ercome your modesty.

Roch. My thanks

For this great favour shall prevent your trouble. The honourable trust that was imposed Upon my weakness, since you witness for me It was not ill discharged, I will not mention; Nor now, if age had not deprived me of The little strength I had to govern well The province that I undertook, forsake it.

Nov. sen. That we could lend you of our years! Du Croy. Or strength!

Nov. sen. Or, as you are, persuade you to continue The noble exercise of your knowing judgment!

Roch. That may not be; nor can your lordships' goodness.

Since your employments have conferred upon me Sufficient wealth, deny the use of it: And, though old age, when one foot's in the grave, In many, when all humours else are spent, Feeds no affection in them but desire To add height to the mountain of their riches, In me it is not so. I rest content With the honours and estate I now possess: And, that I may have liberty to use What Heaven, still blessing my poor industry, Hath made me master of, I pray the court To ease me of my burthen, that I may Employ the small remainder of my life In living well, and learning how to die so.

Enter ROMONT and CHARALOIS.

Rom. See, sir, our advocate.

Du Croy. The court entreats

Your lordship will be pleased to name the man Which you would have your successor, and, in me, All promise to confirm it.

Roch. I embrace it

As an assurance of their favour to me, And name my Lord Novall.

Du Croy. The court allows it.

Roch. But there are suitors wait here, and their causes May be of more necessity to be heard; I therefore wish that mine may be deferred, And theirs have hearing.

Du Croy. [To Nov. sen.] If your lordship please To take the place, we will proceed.

Charmi. The cause

We come to offer to your lordships' censure
Is in itself so noble that it needs not
Or rhetoric in me that plead, or favour
From your grave lordships, to determine of it;
Since to the praise of your impartial justice
(Which guilty, nay, condemned men dare not scandal 2),
It will erect a trophy of your mercy,
With, married to that justice——

Nov. sen. Speak to the cause.

Charmi. I will, my lord. To say, the late dead marshal, The father of this young lord here, my client, Hath done his country great and faithful service, Might task me of impertinence, to repeat What your grave lordships cannot but remember. He, in his life, became indebted to These thrifty men, (I will not wrong their credits By giving them the attributes they now merit,)

1 Accented on the first syllable.

² Scandal, v.a. to slander, or defame.—Boyer, Fr. Dict.

And failing, by the fortune of the wars,
Of means to free himself from his engagements,
He was arrested, and, for want of bail,
Imprisoned at their suit; and not long after,
With loss of liberty, ended his life.
And, though it be a maxim in our laws,
All suits die with the person, these men's malice
In death finds matter for their hate to work on;
Denying him the decent rites of burial,
Which the sworn enemies of the Christian faith
Grant freely to their slaves. May it therefore please
Your lordships so to fashion your decree,
That what their cruelty doth forbid your pity
May give allowance to.

Nov. sen. How long have you, sir, Practised in court?

Charmi. Some twenty years, my lord.

Nov. sen. By your gross ignorance, it should appear, Not twenty days.

Charmi. I hope I have given no cause In this, my lord——

Nov. sen. How dare you move the court
To the dispensing with an act, confirmed
By parliament, to the terror of all bankrupts?
Go home; and with more care peruse the statutes:
Or the next motion, savouring of this boldness,
May force you, sir, to leap, against your will,
Over the place you plead at.

Charmi. I foresaw this.

Rom. Why, does your lordship think the moving of A cause more honest than this court had ever The honour to determine, can deserve A check like this?

Nov. sen. Strange boldness! Rom. 'Tis fit freedom:

Or do you conclude an advocate cannot hold His credit with the judge, unless he study His face more than the cause for which he pleads? Charmi. Forbear.

Rom. Or cannot you, that have the power To qualify the rigour of the laws When you are pleased, take a little from The strictness of your sour decrees, enacted In favour of the greedy creditors, Against the o'erthrown debtor?

Nov. sen. Sirrah! you that prate Thus saucily, what are you?

Rom. Why, I'll tell you, Thou purple-coloured man! I am one to whom Thou ow'st the means thou hast of sitting there,

A corrupt elder.

Charmi. Forbear.

Rom. The nose thou wear'st is my gift; and those ey That meet no object so base as their master, Had been long since torn from that guilty head, And thou thyself slave to some needy Swiss, Had I not worn a sword, and used it better Than, in thy prayers, thou e'er didst thy tongue.

Nov. sen. Shall such an insolence pass unpunished! Charmi. Hear me.

Rom. Yet I, that, in my service done my country, Disdain to be put in the scale with thee, Confess myself unworthy to be valued With the least part, nay, hair of the dead marshal; Of whose so many glorious undertakings, Make choice of any one, and that the meanest, Performed against the subtle fox of France, The politic Louis, or the more desperate Swiss, And 'twill outweigh all the good purposes, Though put in act, that ever gownman practised, Nov. sen. Away with him to prison.

Rom. If that curses.

Urged justly, and breathed forth so, ever fell On those that did deserve them, let not mine

Be spent in vain now, that thou from this instant Mayst, in thy fear that they will fall upon thee, Be sensible of the plagues they shall bring with them; And for denying of a little earth To cover what remains of our great soldier, May all your wives prove whores, your factors thieves, And, while you live, your riotous heirs undo you! And thou, the patron of their cruelty, Of all thy lordships live not to be owner Of so much dung as will conceal a dog, Or, what is worse, thyself in! And thy years, To th' end thou mayst be wretched, I wish many; And, as thou hast denied the dead a grave, May misery in thy life make thee desire one, Which men and all the elements keep from thee !— [To CHARALOIS.] I have begun well; imitate, exceed. Roch. Good counsel, were it a praiseworthy deed. [Exeunt Officers with ROMONT.

Du Crov. Remember what we are. Charal. Thus low my duty Answers your lordship's counsel. I will use. In the few words with which I am to trouble Your lordship's ears, the temper that you wish me; Not that I fear to speak my thoughts as loud, And with a liberty beyond Romont; But that I know, for me, that am made up Of all that's wretched, so to haste my end Would seem to most rather a willingness To quit the burthen of a hopeless life Than scorn of death, or duty to the dead. I, therefore, bring the tribute of my praise To your severity, and commend the justice That will not, for the many services That any man hath done the commonwealth, Wink at his least of ills. What though my father Writ man before he was so, and confirmed it, By numbering that day no part of his life

In which he did not service to his country; Was he to be free, therefore, from the laws And ceremonious form in your decrees? Or else, because he did as much as man, In those three memorable overthrows At Granson, Morat, Nancy, where his master, The warlike Charalois, (with whose misfortunes I bear his name,) lost treasure, men, and life, To be excused from payment of those sums Which (his own patrimony spent) his zeal To serve his country forced him to take up?

Nov. sen. The precedent were ill.

Charal. And yet. my lord, this much, I know, you'll grant; after those great defeatures,² Which in their dreadful ruins buried quick

Re-enter Officers.

Courage and hope in all men but himself, He forced the foe, in his height of conquest, To yield unto an honourable peace; And in it saved an hundred thousand lives, To end his own, that was sure proof against The scalding summer's heat and winter's frost, Ill airs, the cannon, and the enemy's sword, In a most loathsome prison.

Du Croy. 'Twas his fault To be so prodigal.

Nov. sen. He had from the state Sufficient entertainment for the army.

Charal. Sufficient, my lords! You sit at home, And, though your fees are boundless at the bar, Are thrifty in the charges of the war——But your wills be obeyed. To these I turn, To these soft-hearted men, that wisely know,

¹ Charles, Duke of Burgundv.

² Deseat. In Coles' Lat. Dict. "deseat" and "deseature bracketed.

They're only good men 1 that pay what they owe. 2nd Cred. And so they are. 1st Cred. It is the city doctrine: We stand bound to maintain it. Charal. Be constant in it; And since you are as merciless in your natures, As base and mercenary in your means By which you get your wealth, I will not urge The court to take away one scruple from The right of their laws, or wish one good thought In you, to mend their disposition with. I know there is no music to your ears So pleasing as the groans of men in prison; And that the tears of widows, and the cries Of famished orphans, are the feasts that take you; That to be in your danger,2 with more care Should be avoided than infectious air. The loathed embraces of diseased women. A flatterer's poison, or the loss of honour.— Yet, rather than my father's reverend dust Shall want a place in that fair monument In which our noble ancestors lie entombed, Before the court I offer up myself A prisoner for it. Load me with those irons That have worn out his life; in my best strength I'll run to the encounter of cold, hunger, And choose my dwelling where no sun dares enter, So he may be released.

1st Cred. What mean you, sir?
2nd Advo. Only your fee again: there's so much said
Already in this cause, and said so well,

¹ Compare Merchant of Venice, i. 3, 12-17:

[&]quot; Shy. Antonio is a good man.

[&]quot;Bass. Have you heard any imputation to the contrary? "Shy. Oh, no, no, no, no : my meaning in saying he is a

good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient."

i.e. In your power. Compare Merchant of Venice, iv. 1, 180.
The expression is a term of feudal law.

That, should I only offer to speak in it, I should or not be heard, or laughed at for it. 1st Cred. 'Tis the first money advocate e'er gave ba Though he said nothing.

Roch. Be advised, young lord,
And well considerate; you throw away
Your liberty and joys of life together:
Your bounty is employed upon a subject
That is not sensible of it, with which wise man
Never abused his goodness. The great virtnes
Of your dead father vindicate themselves
From these men's malice, and break ope the prison,
Though it contain his body.

Nov. sen. Let him alone:

If he love cords, in God's name let him wear them; Provided these consent.

Charal. I hope they are not
So ignorant in any way of profit,
As to neglect a possibility
To get their own, by seeking it from that
Which can return them nothing but ill fame,
And curses, for their barbarous cruelties.

3rd Cred. What think you of the offer?

2nd Cred. Very well.

Ist Cred. Accept it by all means. Let's shut him He is well shaped, and has a villainous tongue, And, should he study that way of revenge, As I dare almost swear he loves a wench, We have no wives, nor never shall get daughters, That will hold out against him.

Du Croy. What's your answer?

2nd Cred. Speak you for all.

1st Cred. Why, let our executions,

That lie upon the father, be returned

Upon the son, and we release the body.

Nov. sen. The court must grant you that.

Charal. I thank your lordships.

They have in it confirmed on me such glory As no time can take from me: I am ready, Come, lead me where you please. Captivity, That comes with honour, is true liberty.

[Exeunt CHARALOIS, CHARMI, Officers, and Creditors.

Nov. sen. Strange rashness!

Roch. A brave resolution rather,
Worthy a better fortune: but, however,
It is not now to be disputed; therefore
To my own cause. Already I have found
Your lordships bountiful in your favours to me,
And that should teach my modesty to end here,
And press your loves no further.

Du Croy. There is nothing
The court can grant, but with assurance you
May ask it, and obtain it.

Roch. You encourage

A bold petitioner, and 'tis not fit
Your favours should be lost: besides, 't has been
A custom many years, at the surrendering
The place I now give up, to grant the president
One boon, that parted with it; and, to confirm
Your grace towards me, against all such as may
Detract my actions and life hereafter,
I now prefer it to you.

Du Croy. Speak it freely.

Roch. I then desire the liberty of Romont, And that my Lord Novall, whose private wrong Was equal to the injury that was done To the dignity of the court, will pardon it, And now sign his enlargement.

Nov. sen. Pray you demand
The moiety of my estate, or any thing
Within my power, but this.
Roch. Am I denied then

Roch. Am I denied then My first and last request?

¹ Slander.

Du Croy. It must not be. 2nd Pre. I have a voice to give in it.

3rd Pre. And I.

And if persuasion will not work him to it, We will make known our power.

Nov. sen. You are too violent;

You shall have my consent: but would you had

Made trial of my love in any thing

But this, you should have found then—but it skills not; You have what you desire.

Roch. I thank your lordships.

Du Croy. The court is up. Make way.

[Exeunt all but ROCHFORT and BEAUMONT.

Roch. I follow you.

Beaumont!

Beau. My lord.

Roch. You are a scholar, Beaumont;

And can search deeper into the intents of men,

Than those that are less knowing.—How appeared

The piety and brave behaviour of

Young Charalois, to you?

Beau. It is my wonder,

Since I want language to express it fully:

And sure the colonel——

Roch. Fie! he was faulty.

What present money have I?

Beau. There's no want

Of any sum a private man has use for.

Roch. 'Tis well:

I am strangely taken with this Charalois.

Methinks, from his example the whole age

Should learn to be good, and continue so.

Virtue works strangely with us; and his goodness,

Rising above his fortune, seems to me,

Prince-like, to will, not ask, a courtesy.

[Exeunt,

¹ Matters not,



ACT THE SECOND.

SCENE I.—A Street before the Prison.

Enter Pontalier, Malotin, and Beaumont.



AL. 'Tis strange.

Beau. Methinks so.

Pont. In a man but young,

Yet old in judgment; theoric and practic
In all humanity, and, to increase the wonder,

Religious, yet a soldier; that he should Yield his free-living youth a captive for The freedom of his aged father's corpse, And rather choose to want life's necessaries, Liberty, hope of fortune, than it should In death be kept from Christian ceremony.

Mal. Come, 'tis a golden precedent in a son, To let strong nature have the better hand, In such a case, of all affected reason.

What years sit on this Charalois?

Beau. Twenty-eight:

For since the clock did strike him seventeen old,
Under his father's wing this son hath fought,
Served and commanded, and so aptly both.
That sometimes he appeared his father's father,
And never less than 's son; the old man's virtues
So recent in him, as the world may swear,
Nought but a fair tree could such fair fruit bear.

Pont. But wherefore lets he such a barbarous law,

^{1 %.}s. In the humanities, polite literature.

And men more barbarous to execute it,
Prevail on his soft disposition,
That he had rather die alive for debt
Of the old man, in prison, than he should
Rob him of sepulture; considering
These moneys borrowed bought the lenders peace,
And all the means they enjoy, nor were diffused
In any impious or licentious path?

Beau. True! for my part, were it my father's trunk, The tyrannous ram-heads¹ with their horns should gore it, Or cast it to their curs, than they less currish, Ere prey on me so with their lion-law, Being in my free-will, as in his, to shun it.

Pont. Alas! he knows himself in poverty lost: For, in this partial avaricious age, What price bears honour? virtue? long ago, It was but praised, and freezed; but now-a-days, 'Tis colder far, and has nor love nor praise: The very praise now freezeth too; for nature Did make the heathen far more Christian then, Than knowledge us, less heathenish, Christian.

Mal. This morning is the funeral? Pont. Certainly,

And from this prison,—'twas the son's request. That his dear father might interment have, See, the young son entered a lively grave!

Beau. They come:—observe their order.

Solemn music. Enter the Funeral Procession. The Coffin borne by four, preceded by a Priest. Captains, Lieutenants, Ensigns, and Soldiers; Mourners, Scutcheons, &c., and very good order. ROMONT and CHARALOIS, followed by the Gaolers and Officers, with Creditors, meet it.

Charal. How like a silent stream shaded with night, And gliding softly, with our windy sighs,

¹ Cuckolds.

Moves the whole frame of this solemnity!

Tears, sighs, and blacks ifilling the simile;

Whilst I, the only murmur in this grove

Of death, thus hollowly break forth. Vouchsafe

[To the Bearers, who set down the Cossin.]

To stay awhile.—Rest, rest in peace, dear earth!
Thou that brought'st rest to their unthankful lives,
Whose cruelty denied thee rest in death!
Here stands thy poor executor, thy son,
That makes his life prisoner to bail thy death;
Who gladlier puts on this captivity
Than virgins, long in love, their wedding weeds.
Of all that ever thou hast done good to,
These only have good memories; for they
Remember best forget not gratitude.
I thank you for this last and friendly love.

[To the Soldiers.

And though this country, like a viperous mother,
Not only hath eat up ungratefully
All means of thee, her son, but last, thyself,
Leaving thy heir so bare and indigent
He cannot raise thee a poor monument,
Such as a flatterer or a usurer hath,
Thy worth, in every honest breast, builds one,
Making their friendly hearts thy funeral stone.

Pont. Sir.

Charal. Peace! O, peace! this scene is wholly mine.

What! weep ye, soldiers? blanch not. — Romont weeps!——

Ha! let me see!—my miracle is eased,
The gaolers and the creditors do weep;
Even they that make us weep, do weep themselves!
Be these thy body's balm! these and thy virtue
Keep thy fame ever odoriferous,
Whilst the great, proud, rich, undeserving man,
Alive, stinks in his vices, and, being vanished,

^{· 1} Mourning garb.

The golden calf, that was an idol decked With marble pillars, jet, and porphyry, Shall quickly, both in bone and name, consume, Though wrapt in lead, spice, cerecloth, and perfume 1st Cred. Sir.

Charal. What? away, for shame! you, profane rog Must not be mingled with these holy relics; This is a sacrifice: our shower shall crown His sepulchre with olive, myrrh, and bays, The plants of peace, of sorrow, victory; Your tears would spring but weeds.

1st Cred. Would they? Not so; We'll keep them to stop bottles then.

Rom. No, keep them

For your own sins, you rogue, till you repent; You'll die else, and be damned.

and Cred. Damned!—ha! ha! ha!

Rom. Laugh ye?

3rd Cred. Yes, faith, sir; we would be very glad. To please you either way.

1st Cred. You are ne'er content, Crying nor laughing.

Rom. Both with a birth, ye rogues? and Cred. Our wives, sir, taught us.

Rom. Look, look, you slaves! your thankless cruelty, And savage manners of unkind Dijon,

Exhaust 1 these floods, and not his father's death.

1st Cred. 'Slid, sir! what would ye? ye're so choleric. 2nd Cred. Most soldiers are so, i'faith?—let him alone.

They have little else to live on. We've not had

A penny of him, have we?

3rd Cred. 'Slight! would you have our hearts?

1st Cred. We have nothing but his body here in durance,

For all our money.

¹ Draw out. A word not used, I believe, by Massinger. It is given in Coles' Lat. Dict.

riest. On. 'haral. One moment more, to bestow a few poor legacies. I have left in my dead father's rights, I have done. Captain, wear thou these spurs. t yet ne'er made his horse run from a foe. tenant, thou this scarf; and may it tie valour and thy honesty together! so it did in him. Ensign, this cuirass, r general's necklace once. You, gentle bearers, de this purse of gold; this other, strew ong the poor; 'tis all I have. Romontr thou this medal of himself---that, like earty oak, grew'st close to this tall pine, n in the wildest wilderness of war. ereon foes broke their swords, and tired themselves: inded and hacked ye were, but never felled. me, my portion provide in Heaven!— root is earthed, and I, a desolate branch, scattered in the highway of the world, 1 under foot, that might have been a column nly supporting our demolished house. 31 would I wear as my inheritancewhat hope can arise to me from it. en I and it are both here prisoners! y may this, if ever we be free, p, or redeem, me from all infamy.

A DIRGE (to solemn music).

Fie! cease to wonder,

ugh you hear Orpheus with his ivory lute

Move trees and rocks,

rm bulls, bears, and men more savage, to be mute;

Weak foolish singer, here is one

Would have transformed thyself to stone.

¹ His father's sword.—Monck Mason.
Mass. II.

1st Cred. No farther; look to them at your own peril.

and Cred. No, as they please: their master's a good man 1---

I would they were at the Bermudas!

Gaol. You must no further.

The prison limits you, and the creditors Exact the strictness.

Rom. Out, you wolvish mongrels!

Whose brains should be knocked out, like dogs in July, Lest your infection poison a whole town.

Charal. They grudge our sorrow. Your ill wills perforce

Turn now to charity. They would not have us Walk too far mourning; usurer's relief Grieves, if the debtors have too much of grief. [Exeunt.



SCENE II .- A Room in ROCHFORT'S House.

Enter BEAUMELLE, FLORIMEL, and BELLAPERT.

Beaumel. I prithee tell me, Florimel, why do women marry?

Flor. Why truly, madam, I think, to lie with their husbands.

Bell. You are a fool. She lies, madam; women marry husbands, to lie with other men.

Flor. 'Faith, even such a woman wilt thou make. By this light, madam, this wagtail 2 will spoil you, if you take delight in her licence.

Beaumel. 'Tis true, Florimel; and thou wilt make me too good for a young lady. What an electuary 3 found my father out for his daughter, when he compounded you

See note ante, p. 105.
 A medicinal composition.

² Loose woman.

two my women! for thou, Florimel, art even a grain too heavy, simply, for a waiting-gentlewoman——

Flor. And thou, Bellapert, a grain too light.

Bell. Well, go thy ways, Goody Wisdom, whom nobody regards.¹ I wonder whether be elder, thou or thy hood? You think, because you served my lady's mother, are thirty-two years old, which is a pip out,² you know——

Flor. Well said, whirligig.

Bell. You are deceived; I want a peg in the middle.—Out of these prerogatives, you think to be mother of the maids³ here, and mortify them with proverbs; go, go, govern the sweetmeats, and weigh the sugar, that the wenches steal none; say your prayers twice a day, and, as I take it, you have performed your function.

Flor. I may be even with you.

Bell. Hark! the court's broke up. Go, help my old lord out of his caroch,4 and scratch his head till dinner time.

Flor. Well. [Exit.

Bell. Fie, madam, how you walk! By my maidenhead, you look seven years older than you did this morning. Why, there can be nothing under the sun valuable to make you thus a minute.

Beaumel. Ah, my sweet Bellapert, thou cabinet To all my counsels, thou dost know the cause That makes thy lady wither thus in youth.

Bell. Uds-light! enjoy your wishes: whilst I live, One way or other you shall crown your will. Would you have him your husband that you love, And can it not be? he is your servant, 5 though,

¹ See Proverbs i. 24.

² A pip is a spot upon a card. The allusion is to the very ancient game of "One-and-Thirty;" it was once a favourite diversion, and is mentioned, among others, in Green's Art of Coneycatching.—Gifford.

⁸ The chief of the ladies of honour.

The chief of the ladies of honour.
Coach.
Lover.

And may perform the office of a husband.

Beaumel. But there is honour, wench.

Bell. Such a disease

There is indeed, for which ere I would die-

Beaumel. Prithee, distinguish me a maid and wife.

Bell. 'Faith, madam, one may bear any man's children, t'other must bear no man's.

Beaumel. What is a husband?

Bell. Physic, that, tumbling in your belly, will make you sick in the stomach. The only distinction betwixt a husband and a servant is, the first will lie with you when he please; the last shall lie with you when you please. Pray tell me, lady, do you love, to marry after, or would you marry, to love after?

Beaumel. I would meet love and marriage both at once.

Bell. Why, then you are out of the fashion, and will be contemned: for I will assure you, there are few women in the world, but either they have married first, and love after; or love first, and married after. You must do as you may, not as you would; your father's will is the goal you must fly to. If a husband approach you you would have further off, is he you love the less near you? A husband in these days is but a cloak, to be oftener laid upon your bed than in your bed.

Beaumel. Humph!

Bell. Sometimes you may wear him on your shoulder; now and then under your arm; but seldom or never let him cover you, for 'tis not the fashion.

Enter Novall, junior, Pontalier, Malotin, Liladam, and Aymer.

Bell. O, divine lord!

Nov. jun. No autumn nor no age ever approach This heavenly piece; which Nature having wrought, She lost her needle, and did then despair

Ever to work so lively and so fair!

Lilad. Uds-light! my lord, one of the purls! of your band is, without all discipline, fallen out of his rank.

Nov. jun. How! I would not for a thousand crowns she had seen't. Dear Liladam, reform it.

Bell. Oh lord per se, lord! quintessence of honour! she walks not under a weed 2 that could deny thee anything.

Beaumel. Prithee peace, wench; thou dost but blow the fire,

That flames too much already.

[LILADAM and AYMER trim NOVALL, while BELLAPERT dresses her lady.

Aym. By gad, my lord, you have the divinest tailor of Christendom; he hath made you look like an angel in your cloth-of-tissue doublet.

Pont. This is a three-legged lord; there's a fresh assault. Oh! that men should spend time thus! See, see, how her blood drives to her heart, and straight vaults to her cheeks again!

Malot. What are these?

Pont. One of them there, the lower, is a good, foolish, knavish, sociable gallimaufry 3 of a man, and has much caught my lord with singing; he is master of a musichouse. The other is his dressing-block, upon whom my lord lays all his clothes and fashions ere he vouchsafes them his own person: you shall see him in the morning in the Galleyfoist, at noon in the Bullion, 4 in the evening in Querpo 5 and all night in—

¹ Edgings of lace. ² Garment.

A mixture or jumble. Boyer (Fr. Dict.) has "Gallimawfrey v. Hotchpotch."

Fashionably dressed. 5 Without a cloak, en déshabillé.

Malot. A bawdyhouse.

Pont. If my lord deny, they deny; if he affirm, they affirm: they skip into my lord's cast skins some twice a year; and thus they lie to eat, eat to live, and live to praise my lord.

Malot. Good sir, tell me one thing.

Pont. What's that?

Malot. Dare these men ever fight on any cause?

Pont. Oh, no! 'twould spoil their clothes, and put their bands out of order.

Nov. jun. Mistress, you hear the news? your father has resigned his presidentship to my lord my father.

Malot. And Lord Charalois

Undone for ever.

Pont. Troth, 'tis pity, sir.

A braver hope of so assured a father

Did never comfort France.

Lilad. A good dumb mourner.

Avm. A silent black.

Nov. jun. Oh, fie upon him, how he wears his clothes!

As if he had come this Christmas from St. Omers, To see his friends, and returned after Twelfth-tide.

Lilad. His colonel looks finely like a drover-

Nov. jun. That had a winter lain perdu in the rain.

Avm. What, he that wears a clout about his neck. His cuffs in's pocket, and his heart in's mouth?

Nov. jun. Now, out upon him!

Beaumel. Servant, tie my hand.

[Novall jun. kisses her hand.

How your lips blush, in scorn that they should pay Tribute to hands, when lips are in the way!

Nov. jun. I thus recant; [Kisses her.] yet now your hand looks white.

Because your lips robbed it of such a right. Monsieur Aymer, I prithee sing the song Devoted to my miss

Aym. [Sings.]

Music.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN.1

Man. Set, Phœbus, set; a fairer sun doth rise
From the bright radiance of my mistress' eyes
Than ever thou begatt'st: I dare not look;
Each hair a golden line, each word a hook,
The more I strive, the more still I am took.

Wom. Fair servant, come; the day these eyes do lend To warm thy blood, thou dost so vainly spend; Come, strangle breath.

Man. What note so sweet as this,

That calls the spirits to a further bliss?

Wom. Yet this out-savours wine, and this perfume.

Man. Let's die; I languish, I consume.

Enter ROCHFORT and BEAUMONT.

Beau. Romont will come, sir, straight.

Roch. 'Tis well.

Beaumel. My father!

Nov. jun. My honourable lord.

Roch. My Lord Novall, this is a virtue in you;

So early up and ready before noon,

That are the map² of dressing through all France!

Nov. jun. I rise to say my prayers, sir; here's my saint. Roch. 'Tis well and courtly:—you must give me leave,—

I have some private conference with my daughter;

Pray use my garden: you shall dine with me.

Lilal. We'll wait on you.

Nov. jun. Good morn unto your lordship!

Remember what you have vowed—[Aside to BEAUMELLE. Beaumel. Perform I must.

[Exeunt all but ROCHFORT and BEAUMELLE. Roch. Why, how now, Beaumelle's? thou look'st not well.

¹ The quarto has "between Novall and Beaumelle."

² Compare Richard II. v. I, 12: "Thou map of honour."

Here, and generally, pronounced as a trisyllable.

Thou art sad of late;—come, cheer thee, I have found A wholesome remedy for these maiden fits:
A goodly oak whereon to twist my vine,
Till her fair branches grow up to the stars.
Be near at hand.—Success crown my intent!
My business fills my little time so full,
I cannot stand to talk; I know thy duty
Is handmaid to my will, especially
When it presents nothing but good and fit.

Beaumel. Sir, I am yours.—Oh! if my fears prove true, Fate hath wronged love, and will destroy me too.

[Aside and exit.

Enter ROMONT and Gaoler.

Rom. Sent you for me, sir?

Roch. Yes.

Rom. Your lordship's pleasure?

Roch. Keeper, this prisoner I will see forthcoming,
Upon my word.—Sit down, good colonel. [Exit Gaoler.
Why I did wish you hither, noble sir,
Is to advise you from this iron carriage,
Which so affectedly, Romont, you wear;
To pity, and to counsel you submit
With expedition to the great Novall:
Recant your stern contempt, and slight neglect
Of the whole court and him, and opportunely,
Or you will undergo a heavy censure
In public, very shortly.

Rom. Hum, hum—reverend sir,
I have observed you, and do know you well;
And am now more afraid you know not me,
By wishing my submission to Novall,
Than I can be of all the bellowing mouths
That wait upon him to pronounce the censure,
Could it determine me torments and shame.
Submit, and crave forgiveness of a beast!——
"Tis true, this boil of state wears purple tissue,

Is high-fed, proud; so is his lordship's horse, And bears as rich caparisons. I know This elephant carries on his back not only Towers, castles, but the ponderous republic, And never stoops for't; with his strong-breathed trunk, Snuffs others' titles, lordships, offices, Wealth, bribes, and lives, under his ravenous jaws: What's this unto my freedom? I dare die; And therefore ask this camel, if these blessings (For so they would be understood by a man) But mollify one rudeness in his nature. Sweeten the eager 1 relish of the law, At whose great helm he sits. Helps he the poor. In a just business? nay, does he not cross Every deserved soldier and scholar, As if. when Nature made him, she had made The general antipathy of all virtue? How savagely and blasphemously he spake Touching the general, the brave general dead! I must weep when I think on't,

Roch. Sir.

Rom. My lord,

I am not stubborn; I can melt, you see, And prize a virtue better than my life: For, though I be not learned, I ever loved That holy mother of all issues good, Whose white hand, for a sceptre, holds a file To polish roughest customs; and, in you, She has her right: see! I am calm as sleep. But when I think of the gross injuries, The godless wrong done to my general dead, I rave indeed, and could eat this Novall; A soulless dromedary!

Roch. Oh! be temperate.

Sir, though I would persuade, I'll not constrain: Each man's opinion freely is his own

1 Eager [in taste], acer, acutus, acerbus, acidus.—Coles' Lat. Dict.

Concerning any thing, or any body; Be it right or wrong, 'tis at the judge's peril.

Re-enter BEAUMONT.

Beau. These men, sir, wait without; my lord is come too.

Roch. Pay them those sums upon the table; take
Their full releases:—stay, I want a witness.
Let me entreat you, colonel, to walk in,
And stand but by to see this money paid;
It does concern you and your friend; it was
The better cause you were sent for, though said otherwise.

The deed shall make this my request more plain.

Rom. I shall obey your pleasure, sir, though ignorant To what it tends. [Exeunt ROMONT and BEAUMONT.

Enter CHARALOIS.

Roch. Worthiest sir, You are most welcome. Fie, no more of this! You have outwept a woman, noble Charalois. No man but has or must bury a father.

Charal. Grave sir, I buried sorrow for his death, In the grave with him. I did never think He was immortal—though I vow I grieve, And see no reason why the vicious, Virtuous, valiant, and unworthy man, Should die alike.

Roch. They do not.

Charal. In the manner
Of dying, sir, they do not; but all die,
And therein differ not:—but I have done.
I spied the lively picture of my father,
Passing your gallery, and that cast this water
Into mine eyes. See,—foolish that I am,
To let it do so!

Roch. Sweet and gentle nature!

How silken is this well, comparatively
To other men! [Aside.] I have a suit to you, sir.

Charal. Take it, 'tis granted.

Roch. What?

Charal. Nothing, my lord.

Roch. Nothing is quickly granted.

Charal. Faith, my lord,

That nothing granted is even all I have, For, all know, I have nothing left to grant.

Roch. Sir, have you any suit to me? I'll grant You something, anything.

Charal. Nay, surely, I that can Give nothing, will but sue for that again. No man will grant me anything I sue for, But begging nothing, every man will give it.

Roch. Sir!

The love I bore your father, and the worth I see in you, so much resembling his,

Made me thus send for you:—and tender here,

[Draws a curtain, and discovers a table with moncy and jewels upon it.

Whatever you will take, gold, jewels, both, All, to supply your wants, and free yourself. Where heavenly virtue in high-blooded veins Is lodged, and can agree, men should kneel down, Adore, and sacrifice all that they have; And well they may, it is so seldom seen.—Put off your wonder, and here freely take, Or send your servants: nor, sir, shall you use, In aught of this, a poor man's fee, or bribe Unjustly taken of the rich, but what's Directly gotten, and yet by the law.

Charal. How ill, sir, it becomes those hairs to mock!

Charal. You do amaze me:

¹ One may hope there is some corruption of the text here, for a silken well would be something quite new under the sun.

But you shall wonder too. I will not take
One single piece of this great heap. Why should I
Borrow, that have not means to pay? nay, am
A very bankrupt, even in flattering hope
Of ever raising any. All my begging,
Is Romont's liberty.

Re-enter ROMONT and BEAUMONT, with Creditors.

Roch. Here is your friend,
Enfranchised ere you spake. I give him to you;
And, Charalois, I give you to your friend,
As free a man as he. Your father's debts
Are taken off.

Charal. How!

Rom. Sir, it is most true;

I am the witness.

1st Cred. Yes, faith, we are paid.

2nd Cred. Heaven bless his lordship! I did think him wiser.

3rd Cred. He a statesman! he an ass. Pay other men's debts!

1st Cred. That he was never bound for.

Rom. One more such

Would save the rest of pleaders.

Charal. Honoured Rochfort----

Lie still, my tongue, and, blushes, scald my cheeks, That offer thanks in words, for such great deeds.

Roch. Call in my daughter. Still I have a suit to you, [Exit Beaumont.

Would you requite me.

Rom. With his life, assure you.

Roch. Nay, would you make me now your debtor,

Re-enter BEAUMONT with BEAUMELLE.

This is my only child; what she appears, Your lordship well may see: her education

Follows not 1 any; for her mind, I know it
To be far fairer than her shape, and hope
It will continue so. If now her birth
Be not too mean for Charalois, take her,
This virgin by the hand, and call her wife,
Endowed with all my fortunes. Bless me so;
Requite me thus, and make me happier,
In joining my poor empty name to yours,
Than if my state were multiplied tenfold.

Charal. Is this the payment, sir, that you expect! Why, you precipitate 2 me more in debt,
That nothing but my life can ever pay.
This beauty being your daughter, in which "yours" I must conceive necessity of her virtue,
Without all dowry is a prince's aim:
Then, as she is, for poor and worthless I
How much too worthy! Waken me, Romont,
That I may know I dreamed, and find this vanished.

Rom. Sure, I sleep not.

Roch. Your sentence—life or death.

Charal. Fair Beaumelle, can you love me?

Beaumel. Yes, my lord.

Enter Novall, junior, Pontalier, Malotin, Liladam, and Aymer. They all salute.

Charal. You need not question me if I can you: You are the fairest virgin in Dijon, And Rochfort is your father.

Nov. jun. [Aside.] What's this change?

Roch. You meet my wishes, gentlemen.

Rom. What make

These dogs in doublets here?

Beau. A visitation, sir.

Charal. Then thus, fair Beaumelle, I write my faith,

¹ i.s. Is not inferior to.

³ I suppose Gifford is right in changing the "participate" of the original into "precipitate."

Thus seal it in the sight of Heaven and men! Your fingers tie my heart-strings with this touch, In true-love knots, which nought but death shall loose. And let these tears, an emblem of our loves, Like crystal rivers individually Flow into one another, make one source, Which never man distinguish, less divide! Breath marry breath, and kisses mingle souls, Two hearts and bodies here incorporate! And, though with little wooing I have won, My future life shall be a wooing time, And every day new as the bridal one. O, sir! I groan under your courtesies, More than my father's bones under his wrongs: You, Curtius-like, have thrown into the gulf Of this his country's foul ingratitude Your life and fortunes, to redeem their shames. Roch. No more, my glory! come, let's in, and hasten

This celebration. Rom., Mal., Pont., Beau. All fair bliss upon it!

[Exeunt Rochfort, Charalois, Romont, Beaumont, and MALOTIN. Nov. jun. [As Beaumelle is going out.] Mistress!

Beaumel. O, servant !- Virtue strengthen me! Thy presence blows round my affection's vane:— You will undo me, if you speak again. Exit.

Lilad., Aym. Here will be sport for you! this works.

Exeunt.

Nov. jun. Peace! peace! Pont. One word, my Lord Novall. Nov. jun. What, thou wouldst money?—there! Pont. No, I will none; I'll not be bought a slave, A pander, or a parasite, for all Your father's worth. Though you have saved my life, Rescued me often from my wants, I must not Wink at your follies: that will ruin you. You know my blunt way, and my love to truthForsake the pursuit of this lady's honour,
Now you do see her made another man's,—
And such a man's, so good, so popular!—
Or you will pluck a thousand mischiefs on you.
The benefits you have done me are not lost,
Nor cast away, they are pursed here in my heart;
But let me pay you, sir, a fairer way
Than to defend your vices, or to soothe them.

Nov. jun. Ha, ha! what are my courses unto thee?—Good cousin Pontalier, meddle with that

That shall concern thyself.

[Exit.

Pont. No more but scorn!

Move on then, stars, work your pernicious will: Only the wise rule, and prevent your ill.

ne wise rule, and prevent your ill. [Exit. [Hauthoys. Here a passage, over the stage, while the act is playing for the marriage of CHARALOIS with BEAUMELLE, &c.





ACT THE THIRD.

SCENE I .- A Room in CHARALOIS' House.

Enter Novall, junior, and Bellapert.



OV. jun. Fly not to these excuses; thou hast been

False in thy promise—and, when I have said

Ungrateful, all is spoken.

Bell. Good my lord,

But hear me only.

Nov. jun. To what purpose, trifler? Can anything that thou canst say make void The marriage, or those pleasures but a dream, Which Charalois, O Venus! hath enjoyed?

Bell. I yet could say that you receive advantage In what you think a loss, would you voucshafe me; That you were never in the way, till now, With safety to arrive at your desires; That pleasure makes love to you, unattended By danger or repentance.

Nov. jun. That I could
But apprehend one reason how this might be!
Hope would not then forsake me.

Bell. The enjoying Of what you most desire, I say the enjoying, Shall, in the full possession of your wishes,

Nov. jun. Give some relish How this may appear possible.

Confirm that I am faithful.

Bell. I will,

Relish and taste, and make the banquet easy. You say my lady's married,—I confess it; That Charalois hath enjoyed her ;—'tis most true: That, with her, he's already master of The best part of my old lord's state—still better. But, that the first or last should be your hindrance, I utterly deny; for, but observe me; While she went for, and was, I swear, a virgin, What courtesy could she, with her honour, give, Or you receive with safety?—take me with you 1: When I say courtesy, do not think I mean A kiss, the tying of her shoe or garter, An hour of private conference; those are trifles. In this word courtesy we, that are gamesters, point at The sport direct, where not alone the lover Brings his artillery, but uses it; Which word expounded to you, such a courtesy Do you expect, and sudden.

Nov. jun. But he tasted The first sweets, Bellapert,

Bell. He wronged you shrewdly!
He toiled to climb up to the phœnix' nest,
And in his prints leaves your ascent more easy.
I do not know, you that are perfect critics
In women's books, may talk of maidenheads—

Nov. jun. But for her marriage!

Bell. 'Tis a fair protection
'Gainst all arrests of fear or shame for ever.
Such as are fair, and yet not foolish, study
To have one at thirteen; but they are mad
That stay till twenty. Then, sir, for the pleasure,
To say adultery's sweeter, that is stale;
This only—is not the contentment more
To say, This is my cuckold, than my rival?
More I could say—but briefly, she dotes on you;

¹ Understand me.

If it prove otherwise, spare not; poison me, With the next gold you give me.

Enter BEAUMELLE.

Beaumel. How's this, servant!

Courting my woman?

Bell. As an entrance to

The favour of the mistress. You are together;

And I am perfect in my cue.

Going.

Beaumel. Stay, Bellapert.

Bell. In this I must not, with your leave, obey you. Your tailor and your tirewoman wait without, And stay my counsel and direction for Your next day's dressing. I have much to do, Nor will your ladyship, now time is precious, Continue idle: this choice lord will find

So fit employment for you!

[Exit.

Beaumel. I shall grow angry.

Nov. jun. Not so; you have a jewel in her, madam.

Re-enter Bellapert.

Bell. I had forgot to tell your ladyship
The closet is private, and your couch there ready:
And, if you please that I shall lose the key,
But say so, and 'tis done.

[Exit.

Beaumel. You come to chide me, servant, and bring with you

Sufficient warrant. You will say, and truly, My father found too much obedience in me, By being won too soon; yet, if you please But to remember all my hopes and fortunes Had reference to his liking, you will grant That, though I did not well towards you, I yet Did wisely for myself.

Nov. jun. With too much fervour
I have so long loved, and still love you, mistress,
To esteem that an injury to me,

Which was to you convenient:—that is past My help, is past my cure. You yet may, lady, In recompense of all my duteous service, (Provided that your will answer your power,) Become my creditress.

Beaumel. I understand you;
And for assurance the request you make
Shall not be long unanswered,—pray you sit;
And by what you shall hear, you'll easily find,
My passions are much fitter to desire
Than to be sued to.

Enter ROMONT and FLORIMEL behind.

Flor. Sir, it is not envy

At the start my fellow has got of me in

My lady's good opinion, that's the motive

Of this discovery; but the due payment

Of what I owe her honour.

Rom. So I conceive it.

Flor. I have observed too much, nor shall my silence Prevent the remedy:——Yonder they are;
I dare not be seen with you. You may do
What you think fit, which will be, I presume,
The office of a faithful and tried friend
To my young lord.

[Exit.

Rom. This is no vision: ha!

Nov. jun. With the next opportunity?

Beaumel. By this kiss,

And this, and this.

Nov. jun. That you would ever swear thus!

Rom. [Comes forward.] If I seem rude, your pardon.

lady; -- yours

I do not ask: come; do not dare to show me A face of anger, or the least dislike; Put on, and suddenly, a milder look, I shall grow rough else.

Nov. jun. What have I done, sir,

To draw this harsh unsavoury language from you?

Rom. Done, popinjay! why, dost thou think that, if I e'er had dreamt that thou hadst done me wrong,
Thou shouldst outlive it?

Beaumel. This is something more

Than my lord's friendship gives commission for.

Nov. jun. Your presence and the place make him presume

Upon my patience.

Rom. As if thou e'er wert angry
But with thy tailor! and yet that poor shred
Can bring more to the making up of a man
Than can be hoped from thee: thou art his creature;
And did he not, each morning, new create thee,
Thou'dst stink, and be forgotten. I'll not change
One syllable more with thee, until thou bring
Some testimony, under good men's hands,
Thou art a Christian: I suspect thee strongly,
And will be satisfied; till which time, keep from me.—
The entertainment of your visitation
Has made what I intended one, a business.
Nov. jun. So! we shall meet.—Madam.

Rom. Use that leg again

And I'll cut off the other.

· Nov. jun. Very good.

Exit.

Rom. What a perfume the muskcat leaves behind him!

Do you admit him for a property,

To save you charges, lady?

Beaumel. 'Tis not useless,

Now you are to succeed him.

Rom. So I respect you,

Not for yourself, but in remembrance of Who is your father, and whose wife you now are,

That I choose rather not to understand

Your nasty scoff than-

Beaumel. What, you will not beat me

If I expound it to you! Here's a tyrant Spares neither man nor woman!

Rom. My intents,
Madam, deserve not this; nor do I stay
To be the whetstone of your wit: preserve it
To spend on such as know how to admire
Such coloured stuff. In me, there now speaks to you
As true a friend and servant to your honour,
And one that will with as much hazard guard it,
As ever man did goodness:—but then, lady,
You must endeavour not alone to be,
But to appear, worthy such love and service.

Beaumel. To what tends this?
Rom. Why, to this purpose, lady:

I do desire you should prove such a wife
To Charalois (and such a one he merits)
As Cæsar, did he live, could not except at
Not only innocent from crime, but free
From all taint and suspicion.

Beaumel. They are base That judge me otherwise. Rom. But vet be careful: Detraction's a bold monster, and fears not To wound the fame of princes, if it find But any blemish in their lives to work on. But I'll be plainer with you: had the people Been learned to speak but what even now I saw. Their malice out of that would raise an engine To overthrow your honour. In my sight, With yonder painted fool I frighted from you, You used familiarity beyond A modest entertainment; you embraced him With too much ardour for a stranger, and Met him with kisses neither chaste nor comely. But learn you to forget him, as I will Your bounties to him; you will find it safer Rather to be uncourtly than immodest.

Beaumel. This pretty rag 1 about your neck shows well, And, being coarse and little worth, it speaks you As terrible as thrifty.

Rom. Madam!

Beaumel. Yes:

And this strong belt, in which you hang your honour, Will outlast twenty scarfs.

Rom. What mean you, lady?

Beaumel. And then all else about you cap-à-pié, So uniform in spite of handsomeness, Shows such a bold contempt of comeliness, That 'tis not strange your laundress in the leaguer ² Grew mad with love of you.

Rom. Is my free counsel Answered with this ridiculous scorn?

Beaumel. These objects
Stole very much of my attention from me;
Yet something I remember, to speak truth,
Delivered gravely, but to little purpose,
That almost would have made me swear some curate
Had stolen into the person of Romont,
And, in the praise of Goodwife Honesty,
Had read an homily.

Rom. By this hand——
Beaumel. And sword;

I will make up your oath, it will want weight else.— You are angry with me, and poor I laugh at it. Do you come from the camp, which affords only The conversation of cast suburb whores, To set down, to a lady of my rank, Limits of entertainment?

Rom. Sure a legion

Has possessed this woman!

Beaumel. One stamp more would do well; yet I desire not

You should grow horn-mad till you have a wife.

See ante, p. 118. ² Camp. The quarto has "league."

You are come to warm meat, and perhaps clean linen:

Feed, wear it, and be thankful. For me, know, That though a thousand watches were set on me, And you the master-spy, I yet would use The liberty that best likes me. I will revel, Feast, kiss, embrace, perhaps grant larger favours; Yet such as live upon my means shall know They must not murmur at it. If my lord Be now grown yellow, and has chose out you To serve his jealousy this way, tell him this: You have something to inform him. Exit.

Rom. And I will:

Believe it, wicked one, I will. Hear, Heaven, But, hearing, pardon me !--if these fruits grow Upon the tree of marriage, let me shun it, As a forbidden sweet. An heir, and rich, Young, beautiful, yet add to this—a wife, And I will rather choose a spittle 1 sinner Carted an age before, though three parts rotten, And take it for a blessing, rather than Be fettered to the hellish slavery Of such an impudence.

Enter BEAUMONT with writings.

Beau. Colonel, good fortune To meet you thus! You look sad; but I'll tell you Something that shall remove it. O, how happy Is my Lord Charalois in his fair bride!

Rom. A happy man, indeed!—pray you, in what? Beau. I dare swear, you would think so good a lady A dower sufficient.

Rom. No doubt. But on.

Beau. So fair, so chaste, so virtuous, so—indeed, All that is excellent!

1 Hospital, from which the word is contracted. Coles (Lat. Dict.) has " A spittle beggar, valetudinarius è nosocomio."

Rom. [Aside.] Women have no cunning To gull the world!

Beau. Yet, to all these, my lord,
Her father, gives the full addition of
All he does now possess in Burgundy:
These writings, to confirm it, are new sealed,
And I most fortunate to present him with them;
I must go seek him out. Can you direct me?

Rom. You'll find him breaking a young horse.

Beau. I thank you.

[Exit.

Rom. I must do something worthy Charalois' friend-ship.

If she were well inclined, to keep her so Deserved not thanks; and yet, to stay a woman Spurred headlong by hot lust to her own ruin, Is harder than to prop a falling tower With a deceiving reed.

Enter ROCHFORT, speaking to a Servant within.

Roch. Some one seek for me As soon as he returns.

Rom. Her father? ha!

How if I break this to him? sure it cannot Meet with an ill construction; his wisdom, Made powerful by the authority of a father, Will warrant and give privilege to his counsels.

It shall be so.—My lord!

Roch. Your friend, Romont.

Would you aught with me? Rom. I stand so engaged

To your so many favours, that I hold it

A breach in thankfulness, should I not discover,

Though with some imputation to myself,

All doubts that may concern you.

Roch. The performance

Will make this protestation worth my thanks.

Rom. Then, with your patience, lend me your attention:

For what I must deliver, whispered only, You will with too much grief receive.

Re-enter BEAUMELLE and BELLAPERT, behind.

Beaumel. See, wench! Upon my life, as I forespake, he's now · Preferring his complaint; but be thou perfect, And we will fit him.

Bell. Fear not me; pox on him! A captain turn informer against kissing! Would he were hanged up in his rusty armour !--But, if our fresh wits cannot turn the plots Of such a mouldy murrion 1 on itself, Rich clothes, choice fare, and a true friend at a call. With all the pleasures the night yields, forsake us? Roch. This is my daughter! do not wrong her.

Bell. Now

Begin: the game's afoot, and we in distance.

Beaumel. [Comes forward.] 'Tis thy fault, foolish girl! pin on my veil,

I will not wear those jewels. Am I not Already matched beyond my hopes? yet still You prune and set me forth, as if I were Again to please a suitor.

Bell. 'Tis the course

That our great ladies take. Beaumel. A weak excuse! 2

Those that are better seen in what concerns A lady's honour and fair fame, condemn it. You wait well! in your absence my lord's friend,

The understanding, grave, and wise Romont—

Rom. Must I be still her sport? Beaumel. Reproved me for it;

And he has travelled to bring home a judgment

1 Morion, helmet. They were sometimes of leather.
2 The quarto gives these words, "A weak excuse!" to Romont.
Gifford rightly, I think, assigned them to Beaumelle.

Not to be contradicted. You will say
My father, that owes more to years than he,
Has brought me up to music, language, courtship,
And I must use them: true; but not to offend,
Or render me suspected.

Roch. Does your fine story Begin from this?

Beaumel. I thought a parting kiss
From young Novall would have displeased no more
Than heretofore it hath done; but I find
I must restrain such favours now; look, therefore,
As you are careful to continue mine,
That I no more be visited. I'll endure
The strictest course of life that jealousy
Can think secure enough, ere my behaviour
Shall call my fame in question.

Rom. Ten dissemblers

Are in this subtle devil! You believe this? Roch. So far, that if you trouble me again With a report like this, I shall not only Judge you malicious in your disposition, But study to repent what I have done To such a nature.

Rom. Why, 'tis exceeding well.

Roch. And for you, daughter, off with this, off with it! I have that confidence in your goodness, I, That I will not consent to have you live Like to a recluse in a cloister: go, Call in the gallants, let them make you merry Use all It liberty.

Bell. Blessing on you!

If this new preacher with his sword and feather Could prove his doctrine for canonical,
We should have a fine world.

[Exit.

Roch. Sir, if you please
To bear yourself as fits a gentleman,
The house is at your service; but, if not,

Though you seek company elsewhere, your absence Will not be much lamented. [Exit.

Rom. If this be

The recompense of striving to preserve
A wanton giglet 1 honest, very shortly
'Twill make all mankind panders.—Do you smile,
Good lady looseness! your whole sex is like you,
And that man's mad that seeks to better any:

What new change have you next?

Beaumel. Oh, fear not you, sir; I'll shift into a thousand, but I will Convert your heresy.

Rom. What heresy? speak.

Beaumel. Of keeping a lady that is married, From entertaining servants——

Enter Novall, junior, Malotin, Liladam, Aymer, and Pontalier.

---O, you are welcome!

Use any means to vex him,

And then with welcome follow me. [Aside to them, and exit. Nov. jun. You are tired

With your grave exhortations, colonel!

Lilad. How is it? faith, your lordship may do well

To help him to some church preferment: 'tis The fashion now for men of all conditions,

However they have lived, to end that way.

Aym. That face would do well in a surplice.

Rom. Rogues,

Be silent-or-

Pont. 'Sdeath! will you suffer this?

Rom. And you, the master-rogue, the coward rascal,

I shall be with you suddenly.

Nov. jun. Pontalier,

If I should strike him, I know I should kill him;

1 Coles renders "giglet," famina petulans, which in turn he translates "abusive, saucy, malapert, bold and lustful."

And therefore I would have thee beat him, for He's good for nothing else.

Lilad. His back

Appears to me as it would tire a beadle; And then he has a knotted brow, would bruise A courtlike hand to touch it.

Aym. He looks like

A currier when his hides grow dear.

Pont. Take heed

He curry not some of you.

Nov. jun. Gods me! he's angry.

Rom. I break no jests; but I can break my sword About your pates.

Enter CHARALOIS and BEAUMONT.

Lilad. Here's more.

Aym. Come, let's begone:

We are beleaguered.

Nov. jun. Look, they bring up their troops.

Pont. Will you sit down1

With this disgrace? you are abused most grossly.

Lilad. I grant you, sir, we are; and you would have us Stay, and be more abused.

Nov. jun. My lord, I'm sorry

Your house is so inhospitable, we must quit it.

[Exeunt all but CHARALOIS and ROMONT.

Charal. Prithee, Romont, what caused this uproar? Rom. Nothing;

They laughed, and used their scurvy wits upon me.

Charal. Come, 'tis thy jealous' nature: but I wonder That you, which are an honest man and worthy, Should foster this suspicion: no man laughs, No one can whisper, but thou apprehend'st His conference and his scorn reflect on thee: For my part, they should scoff their thin wits out, So I not heard them; beat me, not being there.

¹ i.e. Put up.

² Suspicious.

Leave, leave these fits to conscious men, to such As are obnoxious to those foolish things As they can gibe at.

Rom. Well, sir.

Charal. Thou art known Valiant without defect, rightly defined, Which is as fearing to do injury, As tender to endure it; not a brabbler, A swearer-

Rom. Pish, pish! what needs this, my lord? If I be known none such, how vainly you Do cast away good counsel! I have loved you. And vet must freely speak; so young a tutor Fits not so old a soldier as I am: And I must tell you, 'twas in your behalf I grew enraged thus, yet had rather die Than open the great cause a syllable further.

Charal. In my behalf! Wherein hath Charalois Unfitly so demeaned himself, to give The least occasion to the loosest tongue To throw aspersions on him? or so weakly Protected his own honour, as it should Need a defence from any but himself? They are fools that judge me by my outward seeming. Why should my gentleness beget abuse? The lion is not angry that does sleep, Nor every man a coward that can weep. For God's sake, speak the cause.

Rom. Not for the world.

Oh! it will strike disease into your bones, Beyond the cure of physic; drink your blood, Rob you of all your rest, contract your sight, Leave vou no eves but to see misery, And of your own; nor speech, but to wish thus, "Would I had perished in the prison's jaws, From whence I was redeemed "-'twill wear you old Before you have experience in that art

That causes your affliction.

Charal. Thou dost strike

A deathful coldness to my heart's high heat, And shrink'st my liver like the calenture.¹ Declare this foe of mine, and life's, that like

A man I may encounter and subdue it. It shall not have one such effect in me

As thou denouncest: with a soldier's arm,

If it be strength, I'll meet it; if a fault Belonging to my mind, I'll cut it off

With mine own reason, as a scholar should.

Speak, though it make me monstrous.

Rom. I'll die first.

Farewell; continue merry, and high Heaven Keep your wife chaste!

Charal. Hum! Stay, and take this wolf
Out of my breast, that thou hast lodged there, or
For ever lose me.

Rom. Lose not, sir, yourself,

And I will venture:—so, the door is fast. [Locks the door. Now, noble Charalois, collect yourself,

Summon your spirits, muster all your strength

That can belong to man; sift passion

From every vein, and, whatsoe'er ensues,

Upbraid not me hereafter, as the cause of Jealousy, discontent, slaughter, and ruin:

Make me not parent to sin.—You will know

This secret that I burn with?

Charal. Devil on't,

What should it be! Romont, I heard you wish My wife's continuance of chastity.

Rom. There was no hurt in that.

Charal. Why, do you know

A likelihood, or possibility,

Unto the contrary?

Rom. I know it not, but doubt it; these the grounds:

¹ A burning fever.

The servant of your wife now, young Novall, The son unto your father's enemy, (Which aggravates presumption the more,) I have been warned of, touching her:—nay, seen them Tie heart to heart, one in another's arms, Multiplying kisses, as if they meant To pose arithmetic; or whose eyes would Be first burnt out with gazing on the other's. I saw their mouths engender, and their palms Glued, as if love had locked them; their words flow And melt each other's, like two circling flames, Where chastity, like a phænix, methought, burned, But left the world nor ashes nor an heir.— Why stand you silent thus? what cold dull phlegm, As if you had no drop of choler mixed In your whole constitution, thus prevails, To fix you now thus stupid, hearing this? Charal. You did not see him 1 on my couch within,

Like George a-horseback, on her, nor a-bed? Rom. No.

Charal. Ha! ha!

Rom. Laugh you! even so did your wife, And her indulgent father.

Charal. They were wise:

Wouldst have me be a fool?

Rom. No. but a man.

Charal. There is no dram of manhood to suspect, On such thin airy circumstance as this; Mere compliment and courtship. Was this tale The hideous monster which you so concealed? Away, thou curious impertinent,2 And idle searcher of such lean, nice toys! Go, thou seditious sower of debate, Fly to such matches, where the bridegroom doubts He holds not worth enough to countervail

¹ The quarto has "'em." ² See *Don Quixote*, book vi. Dissension.

The virtue and the beauty of his wife!
Thou buzzing drone, that 'bout my ears dost hum,
To strike thy rankling sting into my heart,
Whose venom time nor medicine could assuage,
Thus do I put thee off! and, confident
In mine own innocency and desert,
Dare not conceive her so unreasonable
To put Novall in balance against me;
An upstart, craned up to the height he has.
Hence, busybody! thou'rt no friend to me,
That must be kept to a wife's injury.

Rom. Is't possible?—farewell, fine honest man! Sweet-tempered lord, adieu! What apoplexy Hath knit sense up? is this Romont's reward? Bear witness, the great spirit of thy father, With what a healthful hope I did administer This potion, that hath wrought so virulently! I not accuse thy wife of act, but would Prevent her precipice to thy dishonour, Which now thy tardy sluggishness will admit. Would I had seen thee graved with thy great sire, Ere lived to have men's marginal fingers 1 point At Charalois, as a lamented story! An emperor put away his wife for touching Another man; but thou wouldst have thine tasted, And keep her, I think-Puff! I am a fire, To warm a dead man, that waste out myself. Bleed 2—what a plague, a vengeance, is't to me. If you will be a cuckold? here, I show A sword's point to thee; this side you may shun. Or that, the peril; if you will run on, I cannot help it.

Charal. Didst thou never see me

sages.—Gifford.

This is perhaps a misprint for "'sblood!" but it may, as Gifford supposes, be the interrupted commencement of a new sentence.

¹ Alluding to the ancient custom of placing an index () in the margin of books to direct the reader's attention to the striking passages.—Gifford.

Angry, Romont?

Rom. Yes, and pursue a foe Like lightning.

Charal. Prithee, see me so no more: I can be so again. Put up thy sword, And take thyself away, lest I draw mine.

Rom. Come, fright your foes with this, sir! I'm your friend.

. And dare stand by you thus.

Charal. Thou art not my friend, Or being so, thou art mad; I must not buy Thy friendship at this rate. Had I just cause, Thou know'st I durst pursue such injury Through fire, air, water, earth, nay, were they all Shuffled again to chaos; but there's none. Thy skill, Romont, consists in camps, not courts. Farewell, uncivil man! let's meet no more: Here our long web of friendship I untwist. Shall I go whine, walk pale, and lock my wife, For nothing, from her birth's free liberty, That opened mine to me? yes! if I do, The name of cuckold then dog me with scorn! I am a Frenchman, no Italian born.

Rom. A dull Dutch rather. Fall and cool, my blood! Boil not in zeal of thy friend's hurt so high, That is so low and cold himself in't! Woman, How strong art thou! how easily beguiled! How thou dost rack us by the very horns! Now wealth I see change manners and the man. Something I must do mine own wrath to assuage, And note my friendship to an after-age.

Exit.

Exit.

1 Unmannerly,



Mass. II.



ACT THE FOURTH.

SCENE I .- A Room in Novall's House.

Novall, junior, discovered seated before a looking-glass, with a Barber and Perfumer dressing his hair, while a Tailor adjusts a new suit which he wears. LILADAM, AYMER, and a Page attending.



OV. jun. Mend this a little: pox! thou hast burnt me. Oh, fie upon't! O Lard! he has made me smell for all the world like a flax, or a red-headed woman's chamber. Powder, powder, powder!

Perf. Oh, sweet lord!

Page. That's his perfumer.

Tail. Oh, dear lord!

Page. That's his tailor.

Nov. jun. Monsieur Liladam, Aymer, how allow 1 you the model of these clothes?

Aym. Admirably, admirably; oh, sweet lord! assuredly it's pity the worms should eat thee.

Page. Here's a fine cell! a lord, a tailor, a perfumer, a barber, and a pair of monsieurs: three to three; as little wit in the one, as honesty in the other. 'Sfoot! I'll into the country again, learn to speak truth, drink ale, and converse with my father's tenants; here I hear nothing all day but—" Upon my soul, as I am a gentleman, and an honest man!"

Aym. I vow and affirm, your tailor must needs be an

expert geometrician; he has the longitude, latitude, altitude, profundity, every dimension of your body, so exquisitely—here's a lace laid as directly as if truth were a tailor.

Page. That were a miracle.

Lilad. With a hair's-breadth error, there's a shoulderpiece cut, and the base of a pickadille in puncto.

Aym. You are right, monsieur; his vestaments 2 sit as if they grew upon him, or art had wrought them on the same loom as nature framed his lordship; as if your tailor were deep read in astrology, and had taken measure of your honourable body with a Jacob's staff, an ephemerides.

Tail. I am bound t'ye, gentlemen.

Page. You are deceived; they'll be bound to you: you must remember to trust them none.

Nov. jun. Nay, 'faith, thou art a reasonable neat artificer, give the devil his due.

Page. Ay, if he would but cut the coat according to the cloth still.

Nov. jun. I now want only my mistress' approbation, who is, indeed, the most polite, punctual 3 queen of dressing in all Burgundy—pah! and makes all other young ladies appear as if they came from board last week out of the country: is't not true, Liladam?

Lilad. True, my lord! as if anything your lordship could say could be otherwise than true.

Nov. jun. Nay, o' my soul, 'tis so; what fouler object in the world than to see a young, fair, handsome beauty unhandsomely dighted 4 and incongruently accoutred? or a hopeful chevalier unmethodically appointed in the external ornaments of nature? For, even as the index tells

¹ Piccadilles; the several divisions or pieces fastened together about the brim of the collar of a doublet, &c.—Cotgrave, Fr. Dict.

The word is preserved in "Piccadilly."

This variation on "vestment" is used by Browning in Christmas

Eve as a rhyme for "testament." 4 Dressed, or decked. 3 Precise.

us the contents of stories, and directs to the particular chapters, even so does the outward habit and superficial order of garments (in man or woman) give us a taste of the spirit, and demonstratively point (as it were a manual note from the margin)¹ all the internal quality and habiliment of the soul; and there cannot be a more evident, palpable, gross manifestation of poor, degenerate, dunghilly blood and breeding than rude, unpolished, disordered, and slovenly outside.

Page. An admirable lecture! oh, all you gallants, that hope to be saved by your clothes, edify, edify!

Aym. By the Lard, sweet lard, thou deservest a pension o' the state.

Page. O' the tailors: two such lords were able to spread tailors o'er the face of a whole kingdom.

Nov. jun. Pox o' this glass! it flatters. I could find in my heart to break it.

Page. O, save the glass, my lord, and break their heads;

They are the greater flatterers, I assure you.

Aym. Flatters! detracts, impairs—yet, put it by, Lest thou, dear lord, Narcissus-like, shouldst dote Upon thyself, and die; and rob the world Of Nature's copy, that she works form by.

Lilad. Oh that I were the infanta queen of Europe! Who but thyself, sweet lord, should marry me?

Nov. jun. I marry! were there a queen o' the world, not I.

Wedlock! no; padlock, horselock:—I wear spurs

[He capers.

To keep it off my heels. Yet, my Aymer, Like a free, wanton jennet in the meadows, I look about, and neigh, take hedge and ditch, Feed in my neighbours' pastures, pick my choice Of all their fair-maned mares; but, married once,

¹ Sce note, ante, p. 144.

A man is staked or pound, and cannot graze Beyond his own hedge.

Enter PONTALIER and MALOTIN.

Pont. I have waited, sir. Three hours to speak wi' ye, and not take it well Such magpies are admitted, whilst I dance Attendance.

Lilad. Magpies! what d'ye take me for?

Pont. A long thing with a most unpromising face.

Avm. I'll never ask him what he takes me for.

Malot. Do not, sir,

For he'll go near to tell you.

Pont. Art not thou

A barber-surgeon?

Barb. Yes, sirrah; why?

Pont. My lord is sorely troubled with two scabs.

Lilad., Avm. Hum-

Pont. I prithee cure him of them.

Nov. jun. Pish! no more,

Thy gall sure's overflown; these are my council, And we were now in serious discourse.

Pont. Of perfume and apparel! Can you rise, And spend five hours in dressing-talk with these?

Nov. jun. Thou'ldst have me be a dog: up, stretch, and shake.

And ready for all day.

Pont. Sir, would you be

More curious in preserving of your honour

Trim, 'twere more manly. I am come to wake

Your reputation from this lethargy

You let it sleep in; to persuade, importune, Nay, to provoke you, sir, to call to account

This colonel Romont, for the foul wrong

Which, like a burthen, he hath laid on you,

And, like a drunken porter, you sleep under.

¹ Impounded.

'Tis all the town talks; and, believe it, sir,
If your tough sense persist thus, you are undone,
Utterly lost; you will be scorned and baffled
By every lacquey: season now your youth
With one brave thing, and it shall keep the odour
Even to your death, beyond, and on your tomb
Scent like sweet oils and frankincense. Sir, this life,
Which once you saved, I ne'er since counted mine;
I borrowed it of you, and now will pay it:
I tender you the service of my sword,
To bear your challenge; if you'll write, your fate
I'll make mine own; whate'er betide you, I,
That have lived by you, by your side will die.

Nov. jun. Ha! ha! wouldst have me challenge poor

Fight with close breeches, thou mayst think I dare not: Do not mistake me, coz, I am very valiant; But valour shall not make me such an ass. What use is there of valour now-a-days? 'Tis sure or to be killed or to be hanged. Fight thou as thy mind moves thee, 'tis thy trade: Thou hast nothing else to do. Fight with Romont! No; I'll not fight, under a lord.

Pont. Farewell, sir! I pity you.

Such living lords walk, their dead honour's graves,

For no companions fit but fools and knaves.

Come, Malotin. [Exeunt Pontalier and Malotin.

Enter ROMONT.

Lilad. 'Sfoot, Colbrand, the low giant!

Aym. He has brought a battle in his face, let's go.

Page. Colbrand, d'ye call him? he'll make some of you

Smoke, I believe.

¹ Gifford is very much shocked at the pun evidently intended here upon "Colbrand," the Danish giant," and "cold-brand,"

Rom. By your leave, sirs!

Aym. Are you a consort? 1

Rom. Do you take me for

A fiddler? you're deceived: look! I'll pay you.

Kicks them.

Page. It seems he knows you one, he bumfiddles you so.

Lilad. Was there ever so base a fellow?

Aym. A rascal.

Lilad. A most uncivil groom.

Aym. Offer to kick a gentleman in a nobleman's chamber! a pox o' your manners!

Lilad. Let him alone, let him alone: thou shalt lose thy aim, fellow; if we stir against thee, hang us.

Page. 'Sfoot! I think' they have the better on him though they be kicked, they talk so.

Lilad. Let's leave the mad ape.

[Going.

Nov. jun. Gentlemen!

Lilad. Nay, my lord, we will not offer to dishonour you so much as to stay by you, since he's alone.

Nov. jun. Hark you!

Aym. We doubt the cause, and will not disparage you so much as to take your lordship's quarrel in hand. Plague on him, how he has crumpled our bands!

Page. I'll e'en away with them, for this soldier beats man, woman, and child.

[Exeunt all but Novall, junior, and ROMONT.

Nov. jun. What mean you, sir? My people!

Rom. Your boy's gone, [Locks the door.

And your door's locked; yet for no hurt to you, sir,

But privacy. Call up your blood again :---

Be not afraid, I do beseech you, sir;

And, therefore, come, without more circumstance,²

Tell me how far the passages have gone

Twixt you and your fair mistress, Beaumelle.

Tell me the truth, and by my hope of Heaven,

¹ A band of musicians.

² Detail.

It never shall go further.

Nov. jun. Tell you! why, sir, are you my confessor? Rom. I will be your confounder, if you do not.

[Draws a pocket dag.1

Stir not, nor spend your voice.

Nov. jun. What will you do?

Rom. Nothing, but line your brain-pan, sir, with lead, If you not satisfy me suddenly:

I am desperate of my life, and command yours.

Nov. jun. Hold! hold! I'll speak. I vow to Heaven, and you,

She's yet untouched, more than her face and hands.

I cannot call her innocent; for, I yield,

On my solicitous wooing,2 she consented,

Where time and place met opportunity,

To grant me all requests.

Rom. But may I build On this assurance?

Nov. jun. As upon your faith.

Rom. Write this, sir; nay, you must.

Draws inkhorn and paper.

Nov. jun. Pox of this gun!

Rom. Withal, sir, you must swear, and put your oath Under your hand—shake not—ne'er to frequent This lady's company, nor ever send Token, or message, or letter, to incline This too much prone already, yielding lady.

Nov. jun. 'Tis done, sir.

Rom. Let me see this first is right:

[Reading.

And here you wish a sudden death may light Upon your body, and hell take your soul, If ever more you see her, but by chance; Much less allure her. Now, my lord, your hand.

¹ A pocket pistol.

² The quarto has "wrongs," which Monck Mason changed, with great probability, to "wooing." Possibly this should be in the plural.

Nov. jun. My hand to this!
Rom. Your heart else, I assure you.

Nov. jun. Nay, there 'tis.

Rom. So! keep this last article

Of your faith given, and, 'stead of threatenings, sir,

The service of my sword and life is yours.

But not a word of it:—'tis fairies' treasure,

Which but revealed, brings on the blabber's ruin.

Use your youth better, and this excellent form

Heaven hath bestowed upon you. So, good morrow To your lordship!

Nov. jun. Good devil to your rogueship! No man's

I'll have a cannon planted in my chamber, Against such roaring rogues.

Enter Bellapert, hastily.

Bell. My lord, away!

The caroch 1 stays: now have your wish, and judge If I have been forgetful.

Nov. jun. Hah!

Bell. Do you stand

Humming and hahing now?

[Exit.

Nov. jun. Sweet wench, I come.

Hence, fear!

I swore—that's all one; my next oath I'll keep

That I did mean to break, and then 'tis quit.

No pain is due to lovers' perjury:

If Jove² himself laugh at it, so will I.

[Exit.

1 The quarto has "coach." The alteration was made by Gifford for the sake of the metre.

² The quarto has "love." The context shows the right reading, the passage being of course one of the innumerable references to Ovid's famous lines. See Nero and other Plays, p. 313.



SCENE II.—An outer Room in Aymer's House.

Enter CHARALOIS and BEAUMONT.

Beau. I grieve for the distaste, though I have manners Not to inquire the cause, fallen out between Your lordship and Romont.

Charal. I love a friend,
So long as he continues in the bounds
Prescribed by friendship; but, when he usurps
Too far on what is proper to myself,
And puts the habit of a governor on,
I must and will preserve my liberty.
But speak of something else, this is a theme
I take no pleasure in. What's this Aymer,
Whose voice for song, and excellent knowledge in
The chiefest parts of music, yoube stow
Such praises on?

Beau. He is a gentleman (For so his quality 1 speaks him) well received Among our greatest gallants; but yet holds His main dependence from the young Lord Novall. Some tricks and crotchets he has in his head, As all musicians have, and more of him I dare not author: but, when you have heard him, I may presume your lordship so will like him That you'll hereafter be a friend to music.

Charal. I never was an enemy to't, Beaumont,
Nor yet do I subscribe to the opinion
Of those old captains that thought nothing musical
But cries of yielding enemies, neighing of horses,
Clashing of armour, loud shouts, drums, and trumpets;
Nor, on the other side, in favour of it,
Affirm the world was made by musical discord,
Or that the happiness of our life consists
In a well-varied note upon the lute:

¹ Profession.

I love it to the worth of't, and no further.——But let us see this wonder.

Beau. He prevents 1 My calling of him.

Enter AYMER, speaking to one within.

Aym. Let the coach be brought

To the back gate, and serve the banquet up.—

My good Lord Charalois! I think my house

Much honoured in your presence.

Charal. To have means

To know you better, sir, has brought me hither A willing visitant; and you'll crown my welcome In making me a witness to your skill, Which, crediting from others, I admire.

Aym. Had I been one hour sooner made acquainted With your intent, my lord, you should have found me Better provided: now, such as it is, Pray you grace with your acceptance.

Beau. You are modest.

Aym. [To the Musicians within.] Begin the last new Charal. Shall we not see them? [air.

Aym. This little distance from the instruments Will to your ears convey the harmony With more delight.

Charal. I'll not contend.2

Aym. [To the Musicians.] You are tedious. [Aside.] By this means shall I with one banquet please Two companies, those within and these gulls here. [Music.

CITIZENS' SONG OF THE COURTIER.

Courtier, if thou needs wilt wive, From this lesson learn to thrive: If thou match a lady that Passes thee in birth and state,

¹ Anticipates.
2 The quarto has "consent." The emendation in the text is due to Coxeter.

Let her curious garments be Twice above thine own degree; This will draw great eyes upon her, Get her servants, and thee honour.

Beaumel. [Within.] Ha! ha! ha! Charal. [Aside.] How's this! it is my lady's laugh, most certain.

When I first pleased her, in this merry language She gave me thanks.

Beau. How like you this?

Charal. 'Tis rare——

[Aside.] Yet I may be deceived, and should be sorry, Upon uncertain suppositions, rashly To write myself in the black list of those I have declaimed against, and to Romont.

Aym. I would he were well off!——Perhaps your lordship

Likes not these sad tunes? I have a new song, Set to a lighter note, may please you better; 'Tis called "The Happy Husband."

Charal. Pray sing it. Aym. [Sings.]

COURTIER'S SONG OF THE CITIZENS.

Poor citizen, if thou wilt be
A happy husband, learn of me
To set thy wife first in thy shop;
A fair wife, a kind wife, a sweet wife, sets a poor man up.
What though thy shelves be ne'er so bare?
A woman still is current ware;
Each man will cheapen, foe and friend;
But, whilst thou art at t'other end,
Whate'er thou seest, or what dost hear,
Fool, have no eye to, nor an ear;
And after supper, for her sake,
When thou hast fed, snort, though thou wake:

What though the gallants call thee mome! ¹ Yet with thy lantern light her home; Then look into the town, and tell If no such tradesmen there do well.

Beaumel. [Within.] Ha! ha! 'tis such a groom! Charal. Do I hear this,

And yet stand doubtful?

[Rushes into the house.

Aym. Stay him—I am undone,

And they discovered.

• Beau. What's the matter?

Aym. Ah!

That women, when they're well pleased, cannot hold, But must laugh out.

Re-enter Charalois, with his sword drawn, pursuing Novall, junior, Beaumelle, and Bellapert.

Nov. jun. Help! save me! murder! murder! Beaumel. Undone for ever! Charal. Oh, my heart!

Hold yet a little—do not hope to scape
By flight, it is impossible. Though I might
On all advantage take thy life, and justly,
This sword, my father's sword, that ne'er was drawn
But to a noble purpose, shall not now
Do the office of a hangman. I reserve it
To right mine honour, not for a revenge
So poor, that though with thee it should cut off
Thy family, with all that are allied
To thee in lust or baseness, 'twere still short of
All terms of satisfaction. Draw!

Nov. jun. I dare not:

I have already done you too much wrong, To fight in such a cause.

Charal. Why, darest thou neither Be honest coward, nor yet valiant knave, In such a cause! come, do not shame thyself:

A gull, a ninny, a mome, a sot.--Florio.

Such whose bloods wrongs, or wrong done to themselves,¹ Could never heat, are yet in the defence
Of their whores daring. Look on her again:
You thought her worth the hazard of your soul,
And yet stand doubtful, in her quarrel, to
Venture your body.

Beau. No, he fears his clothes, More than his flesh.

Charal. Keep from me! guard thy life, Or, as thou hast lived like a goat, thou shalt Die like a sheep.

Nov. jun. Since there's no remedy, Despair of safety now in me prove courage!

[They fight; NOVALL is slain.

Charal. How soon weak wrong's o'erthrown! Lend me your hand:

Bear this to the caroch ²—come, you have taught me To say, you must and shall!

[Exeunt Beaumont and Bellapert, with the Body of Novall; followed by Beaumelle.

I wrong you not,

You are but to keep him company you love.—

Re-enter BEAUMONT.

Is't done? 'tis well. Raise officers, and take care All you can apprehend within the house May be forthcoming. Do I appear much moved? Beau. No, sir.

Charal. My griefs are now thus to be borne; Hereafter I'll find time and place to mourn. [Exeunt.



SCENE III .- A Street.

Enter ROMONT and PONTALIER.

Pont. I was bound to seek you, sir. Rom. And, had you found me

¹ Unintelligible.

² Coach.

In any place but in the street, I should Have done,—not talked to you. Are you, the captain, The hopeful Pontalier, whom I have seen Do, in the field, such service as then made you Their envy that commanded, here, at home, To play the parasite to a gilded knave, And, it may be, the pander?

Pont. Without this,
I come to call you to account for what
Is past already. I, by your example
Of thankfulness to the dead general,
By whom you were raised, have practised to be so
To my good Lord Novall, by whom I live;
Whose least disgrace that is or may be offered,
With all the hazard of my life and fortunes
I will make good on you, or any man
That has a hand in't: and, since you allow me
A gentleman and a soldier, there's no doubt
You will except against me. You shall meet
With a fair enemy: you understand
The right I look for, and must have?

Rom. I do; And with the next day's sun you shall hear from me.

Exeunt.



SCENE IV .- A Room in CHARALOIS' House.

Enter Charalois with a casket, Beaumelle, and Beaumont.

Charal. Pray bear this to my father, at his leisure He may peruse it: but with your best language Entreat his instant presence. You have sworn Not to reveal what I have done.

Beau. Nor will I—But—

Charal. Doubt me not; by Heaven, I will do nothing But what may stand with honour. Pray you, leave me [Exit Beaumont.

To my own thoughts.—If this be to me, rise:

[BEAUMELLE kneels.

I am not worth the looking on, but only
To feed contempt and scorn; and that from you,
Who, with the loss of your fair name, have caused it,
Were too much cruelty.

Beaumel. I dare not move you
To hear me speak. I know my fault is far
Beyond qualification or excuse;
That 'tis not fit for me to hope, or you
To think of mercy; only I presume
To entreat you would be pleased to look upon
My sorrow for it, and believe these tears
Are the true children of my grief, and not
A woman's cunning.

Charal. Can you, Beaumelle, Having deceived so great a trust as mine, Though I were all credulity, hope again To get belief? No, no: if you look on me With pity, or dare practise any means To make my sufferings less, or give just cause To all the world to think what I must do Was called upon by you, use other ways: Deny what I have seen, or justify What you have done; and, as you desperately Made shipwreck of your faith, to be a whore, Use the arms of such a one, and such defence, And multiply the sin with impudence; Stand boldly up, and tell me to my teeth, You have done merely but what's warranted By great examples, in all places where Women inhabit; urge your own deserts, Or want in me of merit; tell me how Your dower, from the low gulf of poverty,

Weighed up my fortunes to what now they are:
That I was purchased by your choice and practice,
To shelter you from shame, that you might sin
As boldly as securely; that poor men
Are married to those wives that bring them wealth,
One day their husbands, but observers 'ever;—
That when, by this proud usage, you have blown
The fire of my just vengeance to the height,
I then may kill you, and yet say 'twas done
In heat of blood, and after die myself,
To witness my repentance,

Beaumel. O my fate!

That never would consent that I should see
How worthy you were both of love and duty,
Before I lost you; and my misery made
The glass in which I now behold your virtue!
While I was good, I was a part of you,
And of two, by the virtuous harmony
Of our fair minds, made one; but, since I wandered
In the forbidden labyrinth of lust,
What was inseparable is by me divided.——
With justice, therefore, you may cut me off,
And from your memory wash the remembrance
That e'er I was; like to some vicious purpose,
Which, in your better judgment, you repent of,
And study to forget.

Charal. O Beaumelle,
That you can speak so well, and do so ill!
But you had been too great a blessing, if
You had continued chaste: see, how you force me
To this, because mine honour will not yield
That I again should love you.

Beaumel. In this life
It is not fit you should: yet you shall find,
Though I was bold enough to be a strumpet,
I dare not yet live one. Let those famed matrons,

¹ Servants.

That are canonized worthy of our sex,
Transcend me in their sanctity of life;
I yet will equal them in dying nobly,
Ambitious of no honour after life,
But that, when I am dead, you will forgive me.

Charal. How pity steals upon me! should I hear her [Knocking within.

But ten words more, I were lost.—One knocks, go in. [Exit BEAUMELLE.

That to be merciful should be a sin!

Enter ROCHFORT.

O, sir, most welcome!—Let me take your cloak,
I must not be denied.—Here are your robes,
As you love justice, once more put them on.
There is a cause to be determined of,
That does require such an integrity
As you have ever used.—I'll put you to
The trial of your constancy and goodness:
And look that you, that have been eagle-eyed
In other men's affairs, prove not a mole
In what concerns yourself. Take you your seat;
I will be for you presently.

Roch. Angels guard me!

Roch. Angels guard me!
To what strange tragedy does this induction
Serve for a prologue?

Re-enter Charalois, Beaumelle, and Beaumont, with Servants bearing the body of Novall, junior.

Charal. So, set it down before

The judgment-seat—[Exeunt Servants.]—and stand you at the bar:

[To Beaumelle.

For me, I am the accuser.

Roch. Novall slain!

And Beaumelle, my daughter, in the place Of one to be arraigned!

one to be arraigned i

Charal. O, are you touched!

I find that I must take another course. Fear nothing, I will only blind your eyes;

[He binds his eyes.

For Justice should do so, when 'tis to meet An object that may sway her equal doom From what it should be aimed at.—Good my lord, A day of hearing.

Roch. It is granted, speak—You shall have justice.

Charal. I then here accuse,

Most equal judge, the prisoner, your fair daughter, For whom I owed so much to you,—your daughter, So worthy in her own parts, and that worth Set forth by yours, to whose so rare perfections, Truth witness with me, in the place of service I almost paid idolatrous sacrifice,—
To be a false adulteress.

Roch. With whom?

Charal. With this Novall here dead.

Roch. Be well advised;

And ere you say adulteress again, Her fame depending on it, be most sure That she is one.

Charal. I took them in the act:

I know no proof beyond it.

Roch. O my heart!

Charal. A judge should feel no passions.

Roch. Yet remember

He is a man, and cannot put off nature.

What answer makes the prisoner?

Beaumel. I confess

The fact I am charged with, and yield myself Most miserably guilty.

Roch. Heaven take mercy

Upon your soul, then! it must leave your body.— Now free mine eyes; I dare unmoved look on her,

[CHARALOIS unbinds his eyes.

And fortify my sentence with strong reasons.

Since that the politic law provides that servants,

To whose care we commit our goods, shall die

If they abuse our trust, what can you look for,

To whose charge this most hopeful lord gave up

All he received from his brave ancestors,

Or he could leave to his posterity,

His honour, wicked woman! in whose safety

All his life's joys and comforts were locked up,

Which thy foul 1 lust, a thief, hath now stolen from him;

And therefore——

Charal. Stay, just judge:—may not what's lost By her one fault, (for I am charitable, And charge her not with many,) be forgotten In her fair life hereafter?

Roch. Never, sir.

The wrong that's done to the chaste married bed, Repentant tears can never expiate; And be assured,—to pardon such a sin, Is an offence as great as to commit it.

Charal. I may not then forgive her? Roch. Nor she hope it.

Nor can she wish to live: no sun shall rise,
But, ere it set, shall show her ugly lust
In a new shape, and every one more horrid.
Nay, even those prayers which, with such humble fervour,
She seems to send up yonder, are beat back,
And all suits which her penitence can proffer,
As soon as made, are with contempt thrown out
Of all the courts of mercy.

Charal. Let her die, then! [He stabs her. Better prepared, I am sure, I could not take her, Nor she accuse her father, as a judge Partial against her.

Beaumel. I approve his sentence,

A word is missing here in the quarto. I have inserted "foul," which is at least not inappropriate.

And kiss the executioner. My lust
Is now run from me in that blood in which
It was begot and nourished.

Dies.

Roch. Is she dead, then?

Charal. Yes, sir; this is her heart-blood, is it not?

I think it be.

Roch. And you have killed her? Charal. True,

And did it by your doom.

Roch. But I pronounced it
As a judge only, and a friend to justice;
And, zealous in defence of your wronged honour,
Broke all the ties of nature, and cast off
The love and soft affection of a father.
I, in your cause, put on a scarlet robe
Of red-dyed cruelty; but in return,
You have advanced for me no flag of mercy.
I looked on you as a wronged husband; but
You closed your eyes against me as a father.

O Beaumelle! my daughter! Charal. This is madness.

Roch. Keep from me!—Could not one good thought rise up,

To tell you that she was my age's comfort, Begot by a weak man, and born a woman, And could not, therefore, but partake of frailty? Or wherefore did not thankfulness step forth, To urge my many merits, which I may Object unto you, since you prove ungrateful, Flint-hearted Charalois!

Charal. Nature does prevail Above your virtue.

Roch. No; it gives me eyes

To pierce the heart of your design against me:

I find it now, it was my state was aimed at.

A nobler match was sought for, and the hours

I lived grew tedious to you: my compassion

Towards you hath rendered me most miserable, And foolish charity undone myself. But there's a Heaven above, from whose just wreak¹ No mists of policy can hide offenders. Nov. sen. [Within.] Force ope the doors!

Enter Novall, senior, with Officers.

O monster! cannibal!

Lay hold on him. My son, my son !—O Rochfort, 'Twas you gave liberty to this bloody wolf
To worry all our comforts :——but this is
No time to quarrel; now give your assistance
For the revenge——

Roch. Call it a fitter name, Justice for innocent blood.

Charal. Though all conspire
Against that life which I am weary of,
A little longer yet I'll strive to keep it,
To show, in spite of malice and their laws,
His plea must speed that hath an honest cause.

Exeunt.

¹ Vengeance.





ACT THE FIFTH.

SCENE I .- A Street.

Enter Tailor, and two Bailiffs with LILADAM.



ILAD. Why, 'tis both most unconscionable and untimely,

To arrest a gallant for his clothes, before

He has worn them out: besides, you said you asked

My name in my lord's bond but for form only, And now you'll lay me up for't! Do not think The taking measure of a customer By a brace of varlets, though I rather wait Never so patiently, will prove a fashion Which any courtier or inns-of-court-man Would follow willingly.

Tail. There I believe you.
But, sir, I must have present moneys, or
Assurance to secure me when I shall;
Or I will see to your coming forth.

Lilad. Plague on't!
You have provided for my entrance in;
That coming forth you talk of, concerns me.
What shall I do? you have done me a disgrace
In the arrest, but more in giving cause
To all the street to think I cannot stand
Without these two supporters for my arms.
Pray you, let them loose me: for their satisfaction,
I will not run away.

Tail. For theirs, you will not;

But for your own, you would. Look to him, fellows.

Lilad. Why, do you call them fellows? do not wrong Your reputation so. As you are merely
A tailor, faithful, apt to believe in gallants,
You are a companion at a ten-crown supper,
For cloth of bodkin, and may, with one lark,
Eat up three manchets,¹ and no man observe you,
Or call your trade in question for't. But, when
You study your debt-book, and hold correspondence
With officers of the hanger, and leave swordmen,
The learned conclude, the tailor and the serjeant,
In the expression of a knave and thief,
To be synonyma.² Look, therefore, to it,
And let us part in peace; I would be loth
You should undo yourself.

Enter Novall, senior, and Pontalier.

Tail. To let you go,

Were the next way. But see! here's your old lord; Let him but give his word I shall be paid, And you are free.

Lilad. 'Slid! I will put him to't.

I can be but denied: or—what say you?

His lordship owing me three times your debt,
If you arrest him at my suit, and let me
Go run before, to see the action entered:—
'Twould be a witty jest!

Tail. I must have earnest:

I cannot pay my debts so.

Pont. Can your lordship Imagine, while I live, and wear a sword, Your son's death shall be unrevenged?

Nov. sen. I know not One reason why you should not do like others:

¹ Small loaves of fine bread.

² Synonima: a word having the same signification which another hath.—Cotgrave, Fr. Dict.

I am sure, of all the herd that fed upon him, ing I cannot see in any, now he's gone, In pity or in thankfulness, one true sign Of sorrow for him.

Pont. All his bounties yet
Fell not in such unthankful ground: 'tis true,
He had weaknesses, but such as few are free from;
And, though none soothed them less than I, (for now,
To say that I foresaw the dangers that
Would rise from cherishing them, were but untimely,)
I yet could wish the justice that you seek for,
In the revenge, had been trusted to me,
And not the uncertain issue of the laws.
It has robbed me of a noble testimony
Of what I durst do for him:—but, however,
My forfeit life redeemed by him, though dead,
Shall do him service.

Nov. sen. As far as my griet
Will give me leave, I thank you.
Lilad. O my lord!

O my good lord! deliver me from these Furies.

Pont. Arrested! this is one of them, whose base
And abject flattery helped to dig his grave:
He is not worth your pity, nor my anger.—
Go to the basket, and repent.

Nov. sen. Away!

I only know thee now to hate thee deadly: I will do nothing for thee.

Lilad. Nor you, captain?

Pont. No; to your trade again; put off this case; It may be, the discovering what you were, When your unfortunate master took you up, May move compassion in your creditor. Confess the truth.

[Exeunt Novall, senior, and Pontalier.

¹ The sheriff's basket, in which broken meat was collected for the use of prisoners for debt.—Gifford.

Lilad. And now I think on't better. Brother, your hand; your hand, sweet brother; I will. I'm of your sect, and my gallantry but a dream, Out of which these two fearful apparitions Against my will have waked me. This rich sword, Grew suddenly out of a tailor's bodkin; These hangers,1 from my vails2 and fees in hell;3 And where as now this beaver sits, full often A thrifty cap, composed of broad-cloth lists, Near-kin unto the cushion where I sat, Cross-legged, and yet ungartered, hath been seen: Our breakfasts, famous for the buttered loaves, I have with joy been oft acquainted with: And therefore use a conscience, though it be Forbidden in our hall towards other men. To me, that, as I have been, will again Be of the brotherhood.

1st Bail. I know him now;

He was a prentice to Le Robe at Orleans.

Lilad. And from thence brought by my young lord, now dead,

Unto Dijon, and with him, till this hour,
Hath been received here for a complete monsieur:
Nor wonder at it; for but tithe our gallants,
Even those of the first rank, and you will find
In every ten, one, peradventure two,
That smell rank of the dancing-school or fiddle,
The pantofle 4 or pressing-iron: 5—but hereafter
We'll talk of this. I will surrender up
My suits again, there cannot be much loss;
'Tis but the turning of the lace, with one
Addition more you know of, and what wants,
I will work out.

¹ Straps by which the sword was attached to the girdle. See *Hamlet*, v. 11. ² Perquisites.

³ A tailor's hell was a place where he deposited his cabbage.— Halliwell.

⁴ Slipper.

⁵ Used for smoothing linen.

Tail. Then here our quarrel ends: The gallant is turned tailor, and all friends.



SCENE II.—The Court of Justice.

Enter ROMONT and BEAUMONT.

Rom. You have them ready?

Beau. Yes, and they will speak

Their knowledge in this cause, when you think fit

To have them called upon.

Rom. 'Tis well; and something
I can add to their evidence, to prove
This brave revenge, which they would have called murder,

A noble justice.

Beau. In this you express
(The breach by my lord's want of you new made up)
A faithful friend.

Rom. That friendship's raised on sand, Which every sudden gust of discontent, Or flowing of our passions, can change, As if it ne'er had been:—but do you know Who are to sit on him?

Beau. Monsieur Du Croy,

Assisted by Charmi.

Rom. The advocate

That pleaded for the marshal's funeral,

And was checked for it by Novall?

Beau. The same.

Rom. How fortunes 1 that?

Beau. Why, sir, my Lord Novall, Being the accuser, cannot be the judge;

Nor would grieved Rochfort but Lord Charalois,

¹ Coles (Lat. Dict.) renders "To fortune" by evenio, which he translates "to come to pass."

However he might wrong him by his power, Should have an equal hearing.

Rom. By my hopes Of Charalois' acquittal, I lament That reverend old man's fortune.

Beau. Had you seen him,
As, to my grief, I have, now promise patience,
And, ere it was believed, though spake by him
That never brake his word, enraged again
So far as to make war upon those hairs
Which not a barbarous Scythian durst presume
To touch, but with a superstitious fear,
As something sacred; and then curse his daughter,
But with more frequent violence himself,
As if he had been guilty of her fault,
By being incredulous of your report,
You would not only judge him worthy pity,
But suffer with him:—but here comes the prisoner;

Enter Officers with CHARALOIS.

I dare not stay to do my duty to him; Yet, rest assured, all possible means in me To do him service, keeps you company. Rom. It is not doubted. [Exit BEAUMON Charal. Why, yet as I came hither, The people, apt to mock calamity. And tread on the oppressed, made no horns at me, Though they are too familiar I deserve them: And, knowing too what blood my sword hath drunk, In wreak of that disgrace, they yet forbare To shake their heads, or to revile me for A murderer; they rather all put on, As for great losses the old Romans used, A general face of sorrow, waited on By a sad murmur breaking through their silence: And no eye but was readier with a tear To witness 'twas shed for me, than I could

Discern a face made up with scorn against me. Why should I, then, though, for unusual wrongs, I chose unusual means to right those wrongs, Condemn myself, as over-partial In my own cause?—Romont!

Rom. Best friend, well met!
By my heart's love to you, and join to that My thankfulness that still lives to the dead,¹
I look upon you now with more true joy Than when I saw you married.

Charal. You have reason

To give you warrant for't: my falling off
From such a friendship, with the scorn that answered
Your too prophetic counsel, may well move you
To think your meeting me, going to my death,
A fit encounter for that hate which justly
I have deserved from you.

Rom. Shall I still, then,
Speak truth, and be ill understood?
Charal. You are not.

I am conscious I have wronged you; and, allow me Only a moral man,—to look on you, Whom foolishly I have abused and injured, Must of necessity be more terrible to me, Than any death the judges can pronounce From the tribunal which I am to plead at.

Rom. Passion² transports you.

Charal. For what I have done

To my false lady, or Novall, I can

Give some apparent cause; but touching you,

In my defence, child-like, I can say nothing

But, I am sorry for't; a poor satisfaction!

And yet, mistake me not; for it is more

Than I will speak, to have my pardon signed

For all I stand accused of.

Rom. You much weaken

¹ i.e. The old marshal.

² Emotion.

The strength of your good cause, should you think,

A man for doing well could entertain
A pardon, were it offered: you have given
To blind and slow-paced justice wings and eyes,
To see and overtake impieties,
Which, from a cold proceeding, had received
Indulgence or protection.

Charal. Think you so?

Rom. Upon my soul! nor should the blood you clenged,

And took to cure your honour, breed more scruple In your soft conscience, than if your sword Had been sheathed in a tiger or she-bear, That in their bowels would have made your tomb. To injure innocence is more than murder: But when inhuman lusts transform us, then As beasts we are to suffer, not like men To be lamented. Nor did Charalois ever Perform an act so worthy the applause Of a full theatre of perfect men, As he hath done in this. The glory got By overthrowing outward enemies, Since strength and fortune are main sharers in it, We cannot, but by pieces, call our own: But, when we conquer our intestine foes, Our passions bred within us, and of those The most rebellious tyrant, powerful love, Our reason suffering us to like no longer Than the fair object, being good, deserves it, That's a true victory! which, were great men Ambitious to achieve, by your example Setting no price upon the breach of faith, But loss of life, 'twould fright adultery Out of their families, and make lust appear As loathsome to us in the first consent, As when 'tis waited on by punishment.

Charal. You have confirmed me. Who would love a woman,

That might enjoy in such a man a friend!
You have made me know the justice of my cause,
And marked me out the way how to defend it.

Rom. Continue to that resolution constant,

And you shall, in contempt of their worst malice,
Come off with honour—here they come.

Charal. I am ready.

Enter Du Croy, Charmi, Rochfort, Novall, senior, Pontalier, and Beaumont.

Nov. sen. See, equal judges, with what confidence The cruel murderer stands, as if he would Outface the court and justice!

Roch. But look on him,
And you shall find, for still methinks I do,
Though guilt hath dyed him black, something good in
him,

That may perhaps work with a wiser man Than I have been again to set him free, And give him all he has.

Charmi. This is not well.

I would you had lived so, my lord, that I Might rather have continued your poor servant, Than sit here as your judge.

Du Croy. I am sorry for you.

Roch. In no act of my life I have deserved This injury from the court, that any here, Should thus uncivilly usurp on what Is proper to me only.

Du Croy. What distaste 1 Receives my lord?

Roch. You say you are sorry for him; A grief in which I must not have a partner. Tis I alone am sorry, that when I raised

¹ Distaste, offensa [affront].-Coles' Lat. Dict.

The building of my life, for seventy years, Upon so sure a ground that all the vices Practised to ruin man, though brought against me, Could never undermine, and no way left To send these gray hairs to the grave with sorrow. Virtue, that was my patroness, betrayed me; For, entering, nay, possessing this young man, It lent him such a powerful majesty To grace whate'er he undertook that freely I gave myself up, with my liberty. To be at his disposing. Had his person, Lovely I must confess, or far-famed valour. Or any other seeming good, that yet Holds a near neighbourhood with ill, wrought on me, I might have borne it better: but, when goodness And piety itself in her best figure Were bribed to my destruction, can you blame me, Though I forget to suffer like a man, Or rather act a woman?

Beau. Good my lord!—
Nov. sen. You hinder our proceeding.
Charmi. And forget

The parts of an accuser.

Beau. Pray you, remember

To use the temper which to me you promised.

Roch. Angels themselves must break, Beaumont, that promise

Beyond the strength and patience of angels. But I have done.—My good lord, pardon me, A weak old man, and, pray you, add to that, A miserable father; yet be careful That your compassion of my age, nor his, Move you to any thing that may disbecome The place on which you sit.

Charmi. Read the indictment.

Charal. It shall be needless; I myself, my lords, Will be my own accuser, and confess

All they can charge me with, nor will I spare To aggravate that guilt with circumstance, They seek to load me with; only I pray, That, as for them you will vouchsafe me hearing, I may not be denied it for myself, When I shall urge by what unanswerable reasons I was compelled to what I did, which yet, Till you have taught me better, I repent not.

Roch. The motion's honest.

Charmi. And 'tis freely granted.

Charal. Then I confess, my lords, that I stood bound. When, with my friends, even hope itself had left me, To this man's charity, for my liberty; Nor did his bounty end there, but began: For, after my enlargement, cherishing The good he did, he made me master of His only daughter, and his whole estate,— Great ties of thankfulness, I must acknowledge: Could any one, feed by you, press this further?— But yet consider, my most honoured lords, If to receive a favour make a servant. And benefits are bonds to tie the taker To the imperious will of him that gives, There's none but slaves will receive courtesies. Since they must fetter us to our dishonours. Can it be called magnificence in a prince, To pour down riches with a liberal hand Upon a poor man's wants, if they must bind him To play the soothing parasite to his vices? Or any man, because he saved my hand, **Presume my head and heart are at his service?** Or, did I stand engaged to buy my freedom (When my captivity was honourable) By making myself here, and fame hereafter, Bondslaves to men's scorn, and calumnious tongues?— Had his fair daughter's mind been like her feature.

¹ i.e. Munificence, as elsewhere in Massinger.

Or, for some little blemish, I had sought For my content elsewhere, wasting on others My body and her dower, my forehead then Deserved the brand of base ingratitude; But if obsequious 1 usage, and fair warning To keep her worth my love, could not preserve her From being a whore, and yet no cunning one, So to offend, and yet the fault kept from me. What should I do? Let any free-born spirit Determine truly, if that thankfulness. Choice form, with the whole world given for a dowry, Could strengthen so an honest man with patience. As with a willing neck to undergo The insupportable voke of slave, or wittol.2 Charmi. What proof have you she did play false, besides

Your oath?

Charal. Her own confession to her father: I ask him for a witness.

Roch. 'Tis most true.

I would not willingly blend my last words With an untruth.

Charal. And then to clear myself,
That his great wealth was not the mark I shot at,
But that I held it, when fair Beaumelle
Fell from her virtue, like the fatal gold
Which Brennus took from Delphos, whose possession
Brought with it ruin to himself and army:
Here's one in court, Beaumont, by whom I sent
All grants and writings back which made it mine,
Before his daughter died by his own sentence,
As freely as, unasked, he gave it to me.

Beau. They are here to be seen. Charmi. Open the casket.—

Peruse that deed of gift.

[To Du Croy

Dutiful; so given in Boyer's Fr. Dict.
 Contented cuckold,

Rom. Half of the danger Already is discharged; the other part As bravely; and you are not only free, But crowned with praise for ever! Du Crov. 'Tis apparent. Charmi. Your state, my lord, again is yours. Roch. Not mine; I am not of the world. If it can prosper, (And yet, being justly got, I'll not examine Why it should be so fatal,) do you bestow it On pious uses: I'll go seek a grave. And vet, for proof I die in peace, your pardon I ask; and, as you grant it me, may Heaven, Your conscience, and these judges, free you from What you are charged with! So, farewell for ever!

Nov. sen. I'll be mine own guide. Passion nor example Shall be my leaders. I have lost a son, A son, grave judges; I require his blood From his accursed homicide.

Charmi. What reply you, In your defence for this?

Ł.

Charal. I but attended
Your lordships' pleasure.—For the fact, as of
The former, I confess it; but with what
Base wrongs I was unwillingly drawn to it,
To my few words there are some other proofs,
To witness this for truth. When I was married—
For there I must begin—the slain Novall
Was to my wife, in way of our French courtship,
A most devoted servant; but yet aimed at
Nothing but means to quench his wanton heat,
His heart being never warmed by lawful fires,
As mine was, lords: and though, on these presumptions,
Joined to the hate between his house and mine,
I might, with opportunity and ease,
Have found a way for my revenge, I did not;

But still he had the freedom as before,
When all was mine; and, told that he abused it
With some unseemly licence, by my friend,
My approved friend, Romont, I gave no credit
To the reporter, but reproved him for it,
As one uncourtly, and malicious to him.
What could I more, my lords? Yet, after this,
He did continue in his first pursuit,
Hotter than ever, and at length obtained it;
But, how it came to my most certain knowledge,
For the dignity of the court, and my own honour,
I dare not say.

Nov. sen. If all may be believed
A passionate prisoner speaks, who is so foolish
That durst be wicked, that will appear guilty?
No, my grave lords; in his impunity,
But give example unto jealous men
To cut the throats they hate, and they will never
Want matter or pretence for their bad ends.

Charmi. You must find other proofs, to strength these

But mere presumptions.

Du Croy. Or we shall hardly Allow your innocence.

Charal. All your attempts
Shall fall on me like brittle shafts on armour,
That break themselves; or waves against a rock,
That leave no signs of their ridiculous fury
But foam and splinters: my innocence, like these,
Shall stand triumphant, and your malice serve
But for a trumpet to proclaim my conquest;
Nor shall you, though you do the worst fate can,
Howe'er condemn, affright an honest man.

Rom. May it please the court, I may be heard?

Nov. sen. You come not

To rail again? but do—you shall not find

Another Rochfort.

Rom. In Novall I cannot;
But I come furnished with what will stop

The mouth of his conspiracy 'gainst the life
Of innocent Charalois. Do you know this character?'

Nov. sen. Yes, 'tis my son's.

Rom. May it please your lordships, read it: And you shall find there, with what vehemency He did solicit Beaumelle; how he had got A promise from her to enjoy his wishes; How after, he abjured her company, And yet—but that 'tis fit I spare the dead—Like a damned villain, as soon as recorded, He brake that oath:—to make this manifest, Produce his bawds and hers.

Enter Officers with AYMER, FLORIMEL, and BELLAPERT,

Charmi. Have they took their oaths?

Rom. They have, and, rather than endure the rack, Confess the time, the meeting, nay, the act;

What would you more? only this matron? made

A free discovery to a good end;

And therefore I sue to the court, she may not Be placed in the black list of the delinquents.

Pont. [Aside.] I see by this, Novall's revenge needs me, And I shall do----

Charmi. 'Tis evident.

Nov. sen. That I

Till now was never wretched: here's no place To curse him or my stars.

Exit.

Charmi. Lord Charalois,

The injuries you have sustained appear So worthy of the mercy of the court

That, notwithstanding you have gone beyond The letter of the law, they yet acquit you.

Pont. But, in Novall, I do condemn him—thus.

Stabs him.

2 Writing.

² I suppose Florimel.

Charal. I am slain.

Rom. Can I look on? O. murderous wretch! So! die with him. Thy challenge now I answer.

Stabs Pontalier.

Charmi. A guard! disarm him.

Rom. I yield up my sword

Unforced—O. Charalois!

Charal. For shame, Romont.

Mourn not for him that dies as he hath lived,

Still constant and unmoved: what's fallen upon me,

Is by Heaven's will, because I made myself

A judge in my own cause, without their warrant;

But He that lets me know thus much in death,

With all good men-forgive me!

Dies.

Pont. I receive

The vengeance which my love, not built on virtue, Has made me worthy, worthy of.

Charmi. We are taught

By this sad precedent, how just soever Our reasons are to remedy our wrongs, We are yet to leave them to their will and power That, to that purpose, have authority. For you, Romont, although, in your excuse, You may plead what you did was in revenge Of the dishonour done unto the court, Yet, since from us you had not warrant for it, We banish you the state. For these, they shall, As they are found guilty or innocent,

Be or set free, or suffer punishment. Exeunt.





THE GUARDIATY.







HE GUARDIAN was licensed October 31st, 1633, but was not printed till 1655, when it appeared in company with The Bashful Lover and A Very Woman in a volume in octavo, entitled Three Newe Playes. The title-page runs: "The Guardian, A Comical-History. As it hath been often acted at

the Private-House in Black-Friars, by his late Majesties Servants, with great Applause. Written by Philip Massenger, Gent. London, Printed for Humphrey Moseley, and are to be sold at his shop at the sign of the Prince's Arms in St. Pauls Church-yard. 1655." In the Office-book of Sir Henry Herbert is the following memorandum in reference to the play: "The Guardian, a play of Mr. Massinger's, was performed at Court on Sunday, the 12th of January, 1633[-4], by the King's players, and well likte."

Gifford traces the Iölante and Calipso story back to the Heetopades, "whence it was transferred to the fables of Pilpay; translated into Greek about the end of the eleventh century by Simeon Seth, a learned Orientalist; and thus found its way into Latin, and made a part of those quaint collections of ribald morality which in Massinger's time were in every one's hands." Boccaccio tells it in the Decameron, and Beaumont and Fletcher make some use of it in the plot of Women Pleased. Hole (Remarks on the Arabian Nights' Entertainments, 1797) believes that Massinger's plot is taken from Eryci Puteani Comus, sive Phagesiposia Cimmeria, Somnium (Louvain, 1611), which contains not only the Iölante story, but another story in which are found several of the names used in the play. As these two stories are the only narratives in Puteanus, it seems almost certain that Massinger must have gone to the book for his material.

The text of the original edition of *The Guardian* is remarkably correct, and it is followed by Gifford with more than usual accuracy.



After twice putting forth to sea, his fame Shipwrecked in either, and his once-known name In two years' silence buried, perhaps lost In the general opinion; at our cost (A zealous sacrifice to Neptune made For good success in his uncertain trade) Our author weighs up anchors, and once more Forsaking the security of the shore, Resolves to prove his fortune: what 'twill be, Is not in him, or us, to prophesy; You only can assure us: yet he prayed This little, in his absence, might be said. Designing me his orator. He submits To the grave censure of those abler wits His weakness: nor dares he profess that when The critics laugh, he'll laugh at them again. (Strange self-love in a writer!)1 He would know His errors as you find them, and bestow His future studies to reform from this. What in another might be judged amiss. And yet despair not, gentlemen; though he fear His strengths to please, we hope that you shall hear Some things so writ as you may truly say He hath not quite forgot to make a play, As 'tis with malice rumoured: his intents Are fair; and, though he want the compliments Of wide-mouthed promisers, who still engage, Before their works are brought upon the stage, Their parasites to proclaim them, this last birth, Delivered without noise, may yield such mirth, As, balanced equally, will cry down the boast Of arrogance, and regain his credit lost.

An allusion to Ben Jonson apparently.



ALPHONSO, King of Naples.

DUKE MONTPENSIER, General of Milan.

SEVERINO, a banished Nobleman.

MONTECLARO, his Brother-in-law (supposed dead), disguised under the name of LAVAL.

DURAZZO, the Guardian.

CALDORO, his Nephew and Ward, in love with CALISTA.

ADORIO, a young Libertine.

Camillo,

LENTULO, | Neapolitan Gentlemen.

DONATO,

CARIO, Cook to ADORIO.

CLAUDIO, a Confidential Servant to SEVERINO.

Captain.

Banditti.

Servants.

Singers, Countrymen.

IÖLANTE, Wife of SEVERINO.
CALISTA, her Daughter, in love with ADORIO.
MIRTILLA, CALISTA'S Maid.
CALIPSO. the Confidant of IÖLANTE.

SCENE—Partly at NAPLES, and partly in the adjacent country.

¹ Here, and throughout the old edition of the play, this name is spelt "Caliste."





THE GUARDIAN,

ACT THE FIRST.

SCENE I.—Naples. A Grove.

Enter Durazzo, Camillo, Lentulo, Donato, and two Servants.

UR. Tell me of his expenses! Which of you

Stands bound for a gazet? he spends his own;

And you impertinent fools or knaves, (make choice

Of either title, which your signiorships

please,)
To meddle in't.

Camil. Your age gives privilege To this harsh language.

Dur. My age! do not use
That word again; if you do, I shall grow young,
And swinge you soundly: I would have you know
Though I write fifty odd, I do not carry
An almanack in my bones to pre-declare
What weather we shall have; nor do I kneel
In adoration, at the spring and fall,
Before my doctor, for a dose or two

1 A Venetian coin; "some three or four gazets," says Ben Jonson (Foe, ii. 2), "some threepence in the whole."

Of his restoratives, which are things, I take it, You are familiar with.

Camil. This is from the purpose.

Dur. I cannot cut a caper, or groan like you When I have done, nor run away so nimbly Out of the field: but bring me to a fence-school, And crack a blade or two for exercise, Ride a barbed horse, or take a leap after me, Following my hounds or hawks, (and, by your leave, At a gamesome mistress,) and you shall confess I am in the May of my abilities, And you in your December.

Lent. We are glad you bear Your years so well.

Dur. My years! no more of years; If you do, at your peril.

Camil. We desire not

To prove your valour.

Dur. 'Tis your safest course.

Camil. But, as friends to your fame and reputation, Come to instruct you, your too much indulgence To the exorbitant waste of young Caldoro, Your nephew and your ward, hath rendered you But a bad report among wise men in Naples.

Dur. Wise men!—in your opinion; but to me, That understand myself and them, they are Hide-bounded money-mongers: they would have me Train up my ward a hopeful youth, to keep A merchant's book; or at the plough, and clothe him In canvas or coarse cotton; while I fell His woods, grant leases, which he must make good When he comes to age, or be compelled to marry With a cast whore and three bastards; let him know No more than how to cipher well, or do His tricks by the square root; grant him no pleasure But quoits and nine-pins; suffer him to converse

¹ A caparisoned war-horse.

With none but clowns and cobblers: as the Turk says, Poverty, old age, and aches 1 of all seasons,

Light on such heathenish guardians!

Don. You do worse

To the ruin of his state, under your favour,

In feeding his loose riots.

Dur. Riots! what riots?

He wears rich clothes, I do so; keeps horses, games and wenches:

'Tis not amiss, so it be done with decorum:

In an heir 'tis ten times more excusable

Than to be over-thrifty. Is there aught else

That you can charge him with?

Camil. With what we grieve for,

And you will not approve.

Dur. Out with it, man.

Camil. His rash endeavour, without your consent,

To match himself into a family

Not gracious with the times.

Dur. 'Tis still the better;

By this means he shall scape court visitants,

And not be eaten out of house and home

In a summer progress; 2 but does he mean to marry?

Camil. Yes, sir, to marry.

Dur. In a beardless chin

'Tis ten times worse than wenching. Family! whose family?

Camil. Signor Severino's.

Dur. How! not he that killed

The brother of his wife, as it is rumoured,

Then fled upon it; since proscribed, and chosen

Captain of the banditti; the king's pardon

On no suit to be granted?

Lent. The same, sir.

¹ Pronounced in two syllables.

³ The progresses or visits of the sovereign and court to various parts of the kingdom.

Dur. This touches near: how is his love returned By the saint he worships?

Don. She affects him not, But dotes upon another.

Dur. Worse and worse.

Camil. You know him, young Adorio.

Dur. A brave gentleman!

What proof of this?

Lent. I dogged him to the church; Where he, not for devotion, as I guess, But to make his approaches to his mistress, Is often seen.

Camil. And would you stand concealed Among these trees, for he must pass this green, The matins ended, as she returns home, You may observe the passages.¹

Dur. I thank you:

This torrent must be stopped.

Don. They come.

Camil. Stand close.

They stand aside.

Enter Adorio, Calista, Mirtilla, and Caldoro muffled.

Calis. I know I wrong my modesty.

Ador. And wrong me,

In being so importunate for that

I neither can nor must grant.

Calis. A hard sentence!

And, to increase my misery, by you,
Whom fond affection hath made my judge,
Pronounced without compassion. Alas, sir,
Did I approach you with unchaste desires,
A sullied reputation; were deformed,
As it may be I am, though many affirm
I am something more than handsome——

Dur. I dare swear it.

¹ Occurrences.

Calis. Or if I were no gentlewoman, but bred coarsely, You might, with some pretence of reason, slight What you should sue for.

Dur. Were he not an eunuch, He would, and sue again; I am sure I should. Pray look in my collar, a flea troubles me: Hey-day! there are a legion of young Cupids At barley-break in my breeches.

Calis. Hear me, sir;

Though you continue, nay, increase your scorn, Only vouchsafe to let me understand What my defects are; of which once convinced, I will hereafter silence my harsh plea, And spare you further trouble.

Ador. I will tell you,

And bluntly, as my usual manner is. Though I were a woman-hater, which I am not, But love the sex,—for my ends, take me with you;1 If in my thought I found one taint or blemish In the whole fabric of your outward features, I would give myself the lie. You are a virgin Possessed of all your mother could wish in you; Your father Severino's dire disaster In killing of your uncle, which I grieve for, In no part taking from you. I repeat it, A noble virgin, for whose grace and favours The Italian princes might contend as rivals; Yet unto me, a thing far, far beneath you, (A noted libertine I profess myself,) In your mind there does appear one fault so gross, Nay, I might say unpardonable at your years, If justly you consider it, that I cannot As you desire, affect you.

Calis. Make me know it, I'll soon reform it.

Ador. Would you'd keep your word!

1 Understand me,

Calis. Put me to the test.

Ador. I will. You are too honest,
And, like your mother, too strict and religious,
And talk too soon of marriage; I shall break,
If at that rate I purchase you. Can I part with
My uncurbed liberty, and on my neck
Wear such a heavy yoke? hazard my fortunes,
With all the expected joys my life can yield me,
For one commodity, before I prove it?
Venus forbid on both sides! let crooked hams,
Bald heads, declining shoulders, furrowed cheeks,
Be awed by ceremonies: if you love me
In the way young people should, I'll fly to meet it,
And we'll meet merrily.

Calis. 'Tis strange such a man Can use such language.

Ador. In my tongue my heart Speaks freely, fair one. Think on't, a close friend, Or private mistress, is court rhetoric;

A wife, mere rustic solecism: so good morrow!

[Addrio offers to go, Caldoro comes forward and stops him.

Camil. How like you this?

Dur. A well-bred gentleman!
I am thinking now if ever in the dark,
Or drunk, I met his mother: he must have
Some drops of my blood in him, for at his years
I was much of his religion.

Camil. Out upon you.

Don. The colt's tooth 1 still in your mouth!

Dur. What means this whispering?

Ador. You may perceive I seek not to displant you, Where you desire to grow; for further thanks, 'Tis needless compliment.

Cald. There are some natures

Compare Henry VIII., i. 3, 48: "Your colt's-tooth is not cast yet!" We now say "milk-teeth."

Which blush to owe a benefit, if not Received in corners; holding it an impairing To their own worth, should they acknowledge it. I am made of other clay, and therefore must Trench so far on your leisure, as to win you To lend a patient ear, while I profess Before my glory, though your scorn, Calista, How much I am your servant.

Ador. My designs

Are not so urgent, but they can dispense With so much time.

Camil. Pray you now observe your nephew.

Dur. How he looks! like a school-boy that had played the truant,

And went to be breeched.

Cald. Madam!

Calis. A new affliction!

Your suit offends as much as his repulse,

It being not to be granted.

Mirt. Hear him, madam;

His sorrow is not personated; he deserves

Your pity, not contempt.

Dur. He has made the maid his, And, as the master of "The Art of Love" Wisely affirms, it is a kind of passage To the mistress' favour.

Cald. I come not to urge

My merit to deserve you, since you are,
Weighed truly to your worth, above all value:
Much less to argue you of want of judgment
For following one that with winged feet flies from you,
While I, at all parts, without boast, his equal,
In vain pursue you; bringing those flames with me,
Those lawful flames, (for, madam, know, with other
I never shall approach you,) which Adorio,
In scorn of Hymen and religious rites,

¹ Ovid, Ars Am., i. 356.

With atheistical impudence contemns; And in his loose attempt to undermine The fortress of your honour, seeks to ruin All holy altars by clear minds erected To virgin honour.

Dur. My nephew is an ass;
What a devil hath he to do with virgin honour,
Altars, or lawful flames, when he should tell her
They are superstitious nothings; and speak to the purpose,

Of the delight to meet in the old dance, Between a pair of sheets ¹—my grandam called it, The Peopling of the World.

Calis. How, gentle sir!
To vindicate my honour! that is needless;
I dare not fear the worst aspersion malice
Can throw upon it.

Cald. Your sweet patience, lady,
And more than dove-like innocence, renders you
Insensible of an injury, for which
I deeply suffer. Can you undergo
The scorn of being refused? I must confess
It makes for my ends; for had he embraced
Your gracious offers tendered him, I had been
In my own hopes forsaken; and if yet
There can breathe any air of comfort in me,
To his contempt I owe it: but his ill
No more shall make way for my good intents,
Than virtue, powerful in herself, can need
The aids of vice.

Ador. You take that licence, sir, Which yet I never granted.

Cald. I'll force more;

Nor will I for my own ends undertake it,

As I will make apparent, but to do

¹ There was an old country-dance called "The Shaking of the Sheets."

A justice to your sex, with mine own wrong And irrecoverable loss. To thee I turn, Thou goatish ribald, in whom lust is grown Defensible, the last descent to hell, Which gapes wide for thee: look upon this lady, And on her fame, (if it were possible, Fairer than she is,) and if base desires, And beastly appetite, will give thee leave, Consider how she sought thee, how this lady, In a noble way, desired thee. Was she fashioned In an inimitable mould, (which Nature broke, The great work perfected,) to be made a slave To thy libidinous twines, and, when commanded, To be used as physic after drunken surfeits! Mankind should rise against thee: what even now I heard with horror showed like blasphemy, And as such I will punish it.

[Strikes Adorio, the rest rush forward; they all draw. Calis. Murder!

Mirt. Help!

Dur. After a whining prologue, who would have looked for

Such a rough catastrophe? Nay, come on, fear nothing:

Never till now my nephew! and do you hear, sir? (And yet I love thee too) if you take the wench now, I'll have it posted first, then chronicled, Thou wert beaten to it.

Ador. You think you have shown

A memorable masterpiece of valour

In doing this in public, and it may

Perhaps deserve her shoe-string for a favour:

Wear it without my envy; but expect,

For this affront, when time serves, I shall call you

To a strict account.

[Exit.

Dur. Hook on, follow him, harpies!

¹ Embraces. ² The original edition has " make in."

You may feed upon this business for a month, If you manage it handsomely.

> [Exeunt Camillo, Lentulo, and Donato. When two heirs quarrel,

The swordmen of the city shortly after Appear in plush, for their grave consultations In taking up the difference; some, I know, Make a set living on't.1 Nay, let him go, Thou art master of the field; enjoy thy fortune With moderation; for a flying foe. Discreet and provident conquerors build up A bridge of gold. To thy mistress, boy! if I were In thy shirt, how I could nick it!2

Cald. You stand, madam.

As you were rooted, and I more than fear My passion hath offended: I perceive The roses frighted from your cheeks, and paleness To usurp their room: yet you may please to ascribe it

To my excess of love, and boundless ardour To do you right; for myself I have done nothing. I will not curse my stars, howe'er assured To me you are lost for ever; for suppose Adorio slain, and by my hand, my life Is forfeited to the law, which I contemn, So with a tear or two you would remember I was your martyr, and died in your service.

Calis. Alas, you weep! and, in my just compassion Of what you suffer, I were more than marble Should I not keep you company: you have sought My favours nobly, and I am justly punished, In wild Adorio's contempt and scorn, For my ingratitude, it is no better, To your deservings: yet such is my fate, Though I would, I cannot help it. O Caldoro!

¹ See Maid of Honour, i. I (Massinger, vol. i. p. 306).
2 Hit it exactly; as we still say, in the nick of time.

In our misplaced affection I prove
Too soon, and with dear-bought experience, Cupid
Is blind indeed, and hath mistook his arrows.
If it be possible, learn to forget,—
And yet that punishment is too light,—to hate
A thankless virgin: practise it; and may
Your due consideration that I am so,
In your imagination, disperse
Loathsome deformity upon this face
That hath bewitched you! more I cannot say,
But that I truly pity you, and wish you
A better choice, which, in my prayers, Caldoro,
I ever will remember. [Excunt Calista and Mirtilla.
Dur. 'Tis a sweet rogue.

Why, how now! thunderstruck?

Cald. I am not so happy:

Oh, that I were but master of myself!

You soon should see me nothing.

Dur. What would you do?

Cald. With one stab give a fatal period

To my woes and life together.

Dur. For a woman!

Better the kind were lost, and generation

Maintained a new way.

Cald. Pray you, sir, forbear

This profane language.

Dur. Pray you, be you a man,
And whimper not like a girl: all shall be well,
As I live it shall; this is no hectic fever,
But a lovesick ague, easy to be cured,
And I'll be your physician, so you subscribe
To my directions. First, you must change
This city whorish air, for 'tis infected,
And my potions will not work here; I must have you
To my country villa; rise before the sun,
Then make a breakfast of the morning dew,
Served up by nature on some grassy hill;

You'll find it nectar, and far more cordial Than cullises 1, cock-broth, or your distillations Of a hundred crowns a quart.

Cald. You talk of nothing.

Dur. This ta'en as a preparative, to strengthen Your queasy stomach, vault into your saddle; With all this flesh I can do it without a stirrup:— My hounds uncoupled, and my huntsman ready, You shall hear such music from their tunable mouths, That you will say the viol, harp, theorbo, Ne'er made such ravishing harmony: from the groves And neighbouring woods, with frequent iterations, Enamoured of the cry, a thousand echoes Repeating it.

Cald. What's this to me?

Dur. It shall be,

And you give thanks for't. In the afternoon,
For we will have variety of delights,
We'll to the field again; no game shall rise
But we'll be ready for't: if a hare, my greyhounds
Shall make a course; for the pie or jay, a sparhawk
Flies from the fist; the crow, so near pursued,
Shall be compelled to seek protection under
Our horses' bellies; a hearn 2 put from her siege,3
And a pistol shot off in her breech, shall mount
So high that, to your view, she'll seem to soar
Above the middle region of the air:
A cast of haggard falcons, by me manned,4
Eyeing the prey at first, appear as if
They did turn tail; but with their labouring wings
Getting above her, with a thought their pinions

A broth, the full recipe of which is given by Nares. As a "red cocke" ("dresse him and cut him in quarters, and bruise all the bones") is one of the principal ingredients, I suppose "cockbroth" must be something of the same kind.

² Heron. ³ A company of herons. ⁴ i.e. "A pair (or a flight) of wild falcons tamed by me." Compare *Taming of the Shrew*, iv. 1, 196:—

[&]quot;Another way I have to man my haggard."

Cleaving the purer element, make in. And by turns bind with her: 1 the frighted fowl. Lying at her defence upon her back. With her dreadful beak a while defers her death. But by degrees forced down, we part the fray, And feast upon her.

Cald. This cannot be, I grant, But pretty pastime.

Dur. Pretty pastime, nephew! 'Tis royal sport. Then, for an evening flight, A tiercel gentle,2 which I call, my masters, As he were sent a messenger to the moon, In such a place 3 flies, as he seems to say, See me, or see me not! the partridge sprung, He makes his stoop; but, wanting breath, is forced To cancelier; then, with such speed as if He carried lightning in his wings, he strikes The trembling bird, who even in death appears Proud to be made his quarry.5

Cald. Yet all this Is nothing to Calista.

Dur. Thou shalt find

Twenty Calistas there; for every night, A fresh and lusty one; I'll give thee a ticket, In which my name, Durazzo's name, subscribed, My tenants' nut-brown daughters, wholesome girls, At midnight shall contend to do thee service. I have bred them up to't; should their fathers murmur,

Their leases are void, for that is a main point

A term in falcony meaning to seize upon.
 The male of the goshawk. In Elizabethan English it is generally "tassel-gentle," as in Romeo and Juliet, ii. 2, 160.
 A technical term for the pitch attained by a falcon before

swooping down on its prey.

4 Cancelier is when a high-flown hawk, in her stooping, turneth two or three times upon the wing, to recover herself before she seizeth her prey.—The Gentleman's Recreation (apud Gifford).

⁵ Prey.

In my indentures; and when we make our progress, There is no entertainment perfect, if This last dish be not offered.

Cald. You make me smile.

Dur. I'll make thee laugh outright.—My horses, knaves!

'Tis but six short hours' riding: yet ere night Thou shalt be an altered man.

Cald. I wish I may, sir.

[Exeunt.



SCENE II.—A Room in SEVERINO'S House.

Enter Iölante, Calista, Calipso, and Mirtilla.

Iöl. I had spies upon you, minion; the relation Of your behaviour was at home before you: My daughter to hold parley, from the church too, With noted libertines! her fame and favours The quarrel of their swords!

Calis. 'Twas not in me To help it, madam.

Iöl. No! how have I lived?

My neighbour knows my manners have been such,
That I presume I may affirm, and boldly,
In no particular action of my life
I can be justly censured.

Calip. Censured, madam!
What lord or lady lives, worthy to sit
A competent judge on you?
Calis. Yet black detraction

Will find faults where they are not.

Calip. Her foul mouth

Is stopped, you being the object. Give me leave. To speak my thoughts, yet still under correction;

And if my young lady and her woman hear.

With reverence, they may be edified.
You are my gracious patroness and supportress,
And I your poor observer¹, nay, your creature,
Fed by your bounties; and, but that I know
Your honour detests flattery, I might say,
And with an emphasis, you are the lady
Admired and envied at, far, far above
All imitation of the best of women
That are or ever shall be. This is truth:
I dare not be obsequious; and 'twould ill
Become my gravity, and wisdom gleaned
From your oraculous ladyship, to act
The part of a she-parasite.

Iöl. If you do,

I never shall acknowledge you.

Calis. [Aside to MIRTILLA.] Admirable!

This is no flattery!

Mirt. Do not interrupt her:

'Tis such a pleasing itch to your lady-mother, That she may peradventure forget us, To feed on her own praises.

Iöl. I am not

So far in debt to age but, if I would Listen to men's bewitching sorceries, I could be courted.

Calip. Rest secure of that.

All the braveries² of the city run mad for you, And yet your virtue's such, not one attempts you.

Iöl. I keep no mankind³ servant in my house, In fear my chastity may be suspected:

How is that voiced in Naples?

Calip. With loud applause,

I assure your honour.

1 To observe (or mind) one's master.

³ Male.

² Beaux. Compare Ben Jonson, The Silent Woman, i. 1: "He is one of the braveries, though he be none of the wits."

Iöl. It confirms I can Command my sensual appetites.

Calip. As vassals

To your more than masculine reason, that commands them:

Your palace styled a numery of pureness, In which not one lascivious thought dares enter, Your clear soul standing sentinel.

Mirt. [Aside.] Well said, Echo!

I'il. Yet I have tasted those delights which women So greedily long for, know their titillations; And when, with danger of his head, thy father Comes to give comfort to my widowed sheets, As soon as his desires are satisfied, I can with ease forget them.

Calip. Observe that,
It being indeed remarkable: 'tis nothing
For a simple maid, that never had her hand
In the honey-pot of pleasure, to forbear it;
But such as have licked there, and licked there often,
And felt the sweetness of 't——

Mirt. [Aside.] How her mouth runs o'er With rank imagination!

Calip. If such can,

As I urged before, the kickshaw being offered, Refuse to take it, like my matchless madam, They may be sainted.

I'll lose no more breath
In fruitless reprehension; look to it:
I'll have thee wear this habit of my mind,
As of my body.

Calip. Seek no other precedent: In all the books of "Amadis de Gaul,"¹
"The Palmerins," and that true Spanish story,

¹ These romances of chivalry, it will be remembered, composed part of Don Quixote's library. The Palmerins means the two stories of that name, Palmerin of England and Palmerin de Oliva.

"The Mirror of Knighthood," which I have read often, Read feelingly, nay more, I do believe in't, My lady has no parallel.

Iöl. Do not provoke me:

If, from this minute, thou e'er stir abroad,
Write letter, or receive one, or presume
To look upon a man, though from a window,
I'll chain thee like a slave in some dark corner;
Prescribe thy daily labour, which omitted,
Expect the usage of a Fury from me,
Not an indulgent mother's,—Come, Calipso.

Calip. Your ladyship's injunctions are so easy, That I dare pawn my credit my young lady And her woman shall obey them.

[Exeunt IÖLANTE and CALIPSO.

Mirt. You shall fry first

For a rotten piece of dry touchwood, and give fire

To the great fiend's nostrils, when he smokes tobacco!

Note the injustice, madam; they would have us,

Being young and hungry, keep a perpetual Lent,

And the whole year to them a carnival.

"Easy injunctions," with a mischief to you!

Suffer this and suffer all.

Calis. Not stir abroad!

The use and pleasure of our eyes denied us!

Mirt. Insufferable.

Calis. Nor write, nor yet receive

An amorous letter!

Mirt. Not to be endured.

Calis. Nor look upon a man out of a window!

Mirt. Flat tyranny, insupportable tyranny,

To a lady of your blood.

Calis. She is my mother,

And how should I decline 1 it?

Mirt. Run away from't;

Take any course.

¹ Avoid.

Calis. But without means, Mirtilla, How shall we live?

Mirt. What a question's that! as if A buxom lady could want maintenance In any place in the world where there are men, Wine, meat, or money stirring.

Calis. Be you more modest,
Or seek some other mistress; rather than
In a thought or dream I will consent to aught
That may take from my honour, I'll endure
More than my mother can impose upon me.

Mirt. I grant your honour is a specious dressing, But without conversation of men,
A kind of nothing. I would not persuade you
To disobedience: yet my confessor told me
(And he, you know, is held a learned clerk)
When parents do enjoin unnatural things,
Wise children may avoid them. She may as well
Command when you are hungry, not to eat,
Or drink, or sleep: and yet all these are easy,
Compared with the not seeing of a man,
As I persuade no further; but to you
There is no such necessity; you have means
To shun your mother's rigour.

Calis. Lawful means?

Mirt. Lawful, and pleasing too; I will not urge Caldoro's loyal love, you being averse to't; Make trial of Adorio.

Calis. And give up My honour to his lust!

Mirt. There's no such thing
Intended, madam; in few words, write to him
What slavish hours you spend under your mother;
That you desire not present marriage from him,
But as a noble gentleman to redeem you
From the tyranny you suffer. With your letter
Present him some rich jewel; you have one,

In which the rape of Proserpine, in little, Is to the life expressed: I'll be the messenger With any hazard, and at my return, Yield you a good account of t.

Calis. 'Tis a business

To be considered of.

Mirt. Consideration,

When the converse of your lover is in question, Is of no moment: if she would allow you A dancer in the morning to well breathe you, A songster in the afternoon, a servant ¹ To air you in the evening; give you leave To see the theatre twice a week, to mark How the old actors decay, the young sprout up, (A fitting observation,) you might bear it; But not to see, or talk, or touch a man, Abominable!

Calis. Do not my blushes speak
How willingly I would assent?
Mirt. Sweet lady,
Do something to deserve them, and blush after.

[Exeunt.

1 Lover. Compare Two Gentlemen of Verona, ii. 4, 106:
"Too low a mistress for so high a servant."





ACT THE SECOND.

SCENE I.- A Street near SEVERINO'S House

Enter ICLANTE and CALIPSO.



()I. And are these Frenchmen, 2 say, such gallants? Calib. Gallant and active: the breeding knows not The Spanish and Italian preci Practised among us: what v immodest.

With them is styled hold courtship: they dare figh Under a velvet ensign at fourteen.

- A petticoat, you mean?
- value. You are in the right;

Let a mistress wear it under an armour of proof, They are not to be beaten off.

- A Non me meny, neighbour.
- the I tool to make you so: pray you c them.

they are the torward'st monsieurs; born physician but the malady of young wenches, and ne'er miss Linux in the to one of them. When I was I is a roung thing, not worth the ground I trod o And hunged to due my bread in tar, my lips Le liline de salt water, he came up roundly to me, And amed me in an instant; Venus be praised for

- ALLA ALPHONSO, MONTPENSIER, LAVAL, Capta Attendants.
 - As They come, leave prating.

Calip. I am dumb, an't like your honour.

Alph. We will not break the league confirmed between us

And your great master: the passage of his army Through all our territories lies open to him; Only we grieve that your design for Rome Commands such haste, as it denies us means To entertain you as your worth deserves, And we would gladly tender.

Mont. Royal Alphonso.

The king my master, your confederate, Will pay the debt he owes in fact, which I Want words to express. I must remove to-night; And yet, that your intended favours may not Be lost, I leave this gentleman behind me, To whom you may vouchsafe them, I dare say, Without repentance. I forbear to give Your majesty his character; in France He was a precedent for arts and arms, Without a rival, and may prove in Naples Worthy the imitation. [Introduces LAVAL to the King. Calip. Is he not, madam,

A monsieur in print! what a garb was there! O rare! Then, how he wears his clothes! and the fashion of them !

A main assurance that he is within All excellent: by this, wise ladies ever Make their conjectures.

Iöl. Peace. I have observed him From head to foot.

Calip. Eye him again, all over.

Lav. It cannot, royal sir, but argue me Of much presumption, if not impudence, To be a suitor to your majesty, Before I have deserved a gracious grant, By some employment prosperously achieved.

i.e. In deed. ² To do a thing in print (or neatly).

But pardon, gracious sir: when I left France I made a vow to a bosom friend of mine, (Which my lord general, if he please, can witness,) With such humility as well becomes A poor petitioner, to desire a boon From your magnificence.¹

[He delivers a petition of the content o

Calip. With what punctual 2 form

He does deliver it!

Iöl. I have eyes; no more.

Alph. For Severino's pardon!—you must excuse me I dare not pardon murder.

Lav. His fact,3 sir,

Ever submitting to your abler judgment,
Merits a fairer name: he was provoked,
As by unanswerable proofs it is confirmed,
By Monteclaro's rashness; who repining
That Severino, without his consent,
Had married Iölante, his sole sister,
(It being concealed almost for thirteen years,)
Though the gentleman, at all parts, was his equal,
First challenged him, and, that declined, he gave him
A blow in public.

Mont. Not to be endured, But by a slave.

Lav. This, great sir, justly weighed, You may a little, if you please, take from The rigour of your justice, and express An act of mercy.

Iöl. I can hear no more.

This opens an old wound, and makes a new one, Would it were cicatrized! wait me.

Calip. As your shadow.

[Exeunt Iölante and Calii

Alph. We grant you these are glorious pretences, Revenge appearing in the shape of valour,

¹ Munificence. See note ante, p. 177.
² Precise, exact.
³ Deed.

Which wise kings must distinguish: the defence Of reputation, now made a bawd To murder; every trifle falsely styled An injury, and not to be determined But by a bloody duel: though this vice Hath taken root and growth beyond the mountains, (As France, and, in strange fashions, her ape, England, can dearly witness with the loss Of more brave spirits than would have stood the shock Of the Turk's army,) while Alphonso lives It shall not here be planted. Move me no further In this: in what else suiting you to ask And me to give, expect a gracious answer: However, welcome to our court. Lord general, I'll bring you out of the ports, and then betake you To your good fortune.

Mont. Your grace overwhelms me.

Exeunt.



SCENE II .- A Room in SEVERINO'S House,

Enter Calipso and Iölante, with a purse and a jewel.

Calip. You are bound to favour him: mark you how he pleaded

For my lord's pardon.

I'd. That's indeed a tie :

But I have a stronger on me.

Calip. Say you love

His person, be not ashamed of't; he's a man For whose embraces, though Endymion Lay sleeping by, Cynthia would leave her orb, And exchange kisses with him.

Iöl. Do not fan

A fire that burns already too hot in me; I am in my honour sick, sick to the death, Never to be recovered.

Mass. II.

Calip. What a coil's 1 here

For loving a man! It is no Afric wonder:

If, like Pasiphaë, you doted on a bull,

Indeed 'twere monstrous; but in this you have

A thousand thousand precedents to excuse you.

A seaman's wife may ask relief of her neighbour,

When her husband's bound to the Indies, and no blamed for't:

And many more besides of higher calling,
Though I forbear to name them. You have a husband
But, as the case stands with my lord, he is
A kind of no-husband; and your ladyship
As free as a widow can be. I confess,
If ladies should seek change that have their husbands
At board and bed, to pay their marriage duties,
(The surest bond of concord,) 'twere a fault,
Indeed it were: but for your honour, that
Do lie alone so often—body of me!
I am zealous in your cause—let me take breath.

Iöl. I apprehend what thou wouldst say, I want all As means to quench the spurious fire that burns here, Calip. Want means, while I, your creature, live! dare not

Be so unthankful.

Iöl. Wilt thou undertake it?

And, as an earnest of much more to come, Receive this jewel, and purse crammed full of crowns.— [Aside.] How dearly I am forced to buy dishonour.

Calip. I would do it gratis, but 'twould ill become My breeding to refuse your honour's bounty; Nay, say no more, all rhetoric in this Is comprehended; let me alone to work him. He shall be yours; that's poor, he is already At your devotion. I will not boast My faculties this way, but suppose he were Coy as Adonis, or Hippolytus,

What a luss.

And your desires more hot than Cytherea's, Or wanton Phædra's, I will bring him chained To your embraces, glorying in his fetters: I have said it.

Iöl. Go, and prosper; and imagine A salary beyond thy hopes.
Calip. Sleep you

Secure on either ear; the burthen's yours To entertain him, mine to bring him hither.

Excunt.



III SCENE .- A Room in ADORIO'S House.

Enter Adorio, Camillo, Lentulo, and Donato.

Don. Your wrong's beyond a challenge, and you deal

Too fairly with him, if you take that way To right yourself.

Lent. The least that you can do, In the terms of honour, is, when next you meet him, To give him the bastinado.

Cam. And that done,

Draw out his sword to cut your own throat! No, Be ruled by me, show yourself an Italian, And, having received one injury, do not put off Your hat for a second; there are fellows that, For a few crowns, will make him sure, and so, With your revenge, you prevent future mischief.

Ador. I thank you, gentlemen, for your studied care In what concerns my honour; but in that I'll steer mine own course. Yet, that you may know You are still my cabinet counsellors, my bosom Lies open to you; I begin to feel A weariness, nay, satiety of looseness,

¹ i.e. Sleep soundly (Lat. in utramvis aurem dormire; Fr. dormir sur les deux oreilles).

And something tells me here, I should repent My harshness to Calista.

Enter CARIO, hastily.

Camil. When you please, You may remove that scruple.

Ador. I shall think on't.

Car. Sir, sir, are you ready?

Ador. To do what? I am sure

'Tis not vet dinner-time.

Car. True; but I usher
Such an unexpected dainty bit for breakfast,
As yet I never cooked: 'tis not botargo,'
Fried frogs, potatoes marrowed, cavear.

Carps' tongues, the pith of an English chine of beef, Nor our Italian delicate, oiled mushrooms,

And yet a drawer-on 2 too; and if you show not

An appetite, and a strong one, I'll not say To eat it, but devour it, without grace too,

(For it will not stay a preface,) I am shamed,

And all my past provocatives will be jeered at.

Ador. Art thou in thy wits? what new-found rarity Hast thou discovered?

Car. No such matter, sir;

It grows in our own country.

Don. Serve it up,

I feel a kind of stomach.

Camil. I could feed too.

Car. Not a bit upon a march; there's other lettuce For your coarse lips; this is peculiar only For my master's palate; I would give my whole year's wages,

With all my vails,³ and fees due to the kitchen, But to be his carver.

¹ The hard roe of the mullet pickled with oil and vinegar.
2 Gifford says that the phrase is "yet in use" (1805) in the sense of "an incitement to appetite."
3 Presents, gifts.

Ador. Leave your fooling, sirrah,

And bring in your dainty.

Car. 'Twill bring in itself,

It has life and spirit in it; and for proof,

Behold! Now fall to boldly; my life on't, It comes to be tasted.

Enter MIRTILLA, with letter and jewel.

Camil. Ha! Calista's woman?

Lent. A handsome one, by Venus.

Ador. Pray you forbear.

You are welcome, fair one.

Don. How that blush becomes her!

Ador. Aim your designs at me?

Mirt. I am trusted, sir,

With a business of near consequence, which I would To your private ear deliver.

Car. I told you so.

Give her audience on your couch; it is fit state To a she-ambassador.

Ador. Pray you, gentlemen,

For awhile dispose of yourselves, I'll straight attend you.

[Exeunt Camillo, Lentulo, and Donato.

Car. Dispatch her first for your honour: the quickly doing—

You know what follows.

Ador. Will you please to vanish? [Exit CARIO. Now, pretty one, your pleasure? you shall find me

Ready to serve you; if you'll put me to

My oath, I'll take it on this book. [Offers to kiss her. Mirt. O six,

The favour is too great, and far above My poor ambition; I must kiss your hand In sign of humble thankfulness.

Ador. So modest!

Mirt. It well becomes a maid, sir. Spare those blessings

For my noble mistress, upon whom with justice, And, with your good allowance, I might add With a due gratitude, you may confer them; But this will better speak her chaste desires

[Delivers a letter.

Than I can fancy what they are, much less With moving language, to their fair deserts, Aptly express them. Pray you read, but with Compassion, I beseech you: if you find The paper blurred with tears fallen from her eyes, While she endeavoured to set down that truth Her soul did dictate to her, it must challenge A gracious answer.

Ador. O the powerful charms By that fair hand writ down here! not like those Which, dreadfully pronounced by Circe, changed Ulysses' followers into beasts: these have An opposite working: I already feel, But reading them, their saving operations: And all those sensual, loose, and base desires Which have too long usurped and tyrannized Over my reason, of themselves fall off. Most happy metamorphosis! in which The film of error that did blind my judgment And seduced understanding, is removed. What sacrifice of thanks can I return Her pious charity, that not alone Redeems me from the worst of slavery, 1 The tyranny of my beastly appetites, To which I long obsequiously have bowed: But adds a matchless favour, to receive A benefit from me, nay, puts her goodness In my protection.

Mirt. [Aside.] Transformed!—it is A blessed metamorphosis, and works I know not how on me.

Ador. My joys are boundless,

Curbed with no limits: for her sake, Mirtilla, Instruct me how I presently may seal To those strong bonds of loyal love and service Which never shall be cancelled.

Mirt. She'll become Your debtor, sir, if you vouchsafe to answer Her pure affection.

Ador. Answer it, Mirtilla!
With more than adoration I kneel to it.
Tell her, I'll rather die a thousand deaths
Than fail, with punctuality, to perform
All her commands.

Mirt. [Aside.] I am lost on this assurance, Which, if 'twere made to me, I should have faith in't, As in an oracle: ah me!—She presents you This jewel, her dead grandsire's gift, in which, As by a true Egyptian hieroglyphic (For so I think she called it), you may be Instructed what her suit is you should do, And she with joy will suffer.

Ador. Heaven be pleased
To qualify this excess of happiness
With some disaster, or I shall expire
With a surfeit of felicity. With what art
The cunning lapidary hath here expressed
The rape of Proserpine! I apprehend
Her purpose, and obey it; yet not as
A helping friend, but a husband: I will meet
Her chaste desires with lawful heat, and warm
Our Hymeneal sheets with such delights
As leave no sting behind them.

Mirt. [Aside.] I despair then.

Ador. At the time appointed say, wench, I'll attend her. And guard her from the fury of her mother, And all that dare disturb her.

Mirt. You speak well; And I believe you.

Ador. Would you aught else?

Mirt. I would

Carry some love-sign to her; and now I think on't The kind salute you offered at my entrance, Hold it not impudence that I desire it, I'll faithfully deliver it.

Ador. O, a kiss!

You must excuse me, I was then mine own, Now wholly hers: the touch of other lips I do abjure for ever: but there's gold To bind thee still my advocate.

[Exit.

Mirt. Not a kiss!

I was coy when it was offered, and now justly,
When I beg one am denied. What scorching fires
My loose hopes kindle in me! shall I be
False to my lady's trust, and, from a servant,
Rise up her rival? His words have bewitched me,
And something I must do, but what?—'tis yet
An embryon, and how to give it form,
Alas, I know not. Pardon me, Calista,
I am nearest to myself, and time will teach me
To perfect that which yet is undermined. [Exit.

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SCENE IV.—A Forest.

Enter CLAUDIO and SEVERINO.

Claud. You are master of yourself; yet, if I may, As a tried friend in my love and affection, And a servant in my duty, speak my thoughts Without offence, i' the way of counsel to you; I could allege, and truly, that your purpose For Naples, covered with a thin disguise, Is full of danger.

Sev. Danger, Claudio!
'Tis here, and everywhere, our forced companion:

The rising and the setting sun beholds us Environed with it; our whole life a journey Ending in certain ruin.

Claud. Yet we should not, Howe'er besieged, deliver up our fort Of life, till it be forced.

Sev. 'Tis so indeed

By wisest men concluded, which we should Obev as Christians: but when I consider How different the progress of our actions Is from religion, nav. morality, I cannot find in reason, why we should Be scrupulous that way only; or like meteors Blaze forth prodigious terrors, till our stuff Be utterly consumed, which once put out, Would bring security unto ourselves, And safety unto those we prey upon. O Claudio! since by this fatal hand The brother of my wife, bold Monteclaro, Was left dead in the field, and I proscribed After my flight, by the justice of the king, My being hath been but a living death, With a continued torture.

Claud. Yet in that You do delude their bloody violence That do pursue your life.

Sev. While I, by rapines,
Live terrible to others as myself.—
What one hour can we challenge as our own,
Unhappy as we are, yielding a beam
Of comfort to us? Quiet night, that brings
Rest to the labourer, is the outlaw's day,
In which he rises early to do wrong,
And when his work is ended dares not sleep:
Our time is spent in watches to entrap
Such as would shun us, and to hide ourselves
From the ministers of justice, that would bring us

To the correction of the law. O, Claudio, Is this a life to be preserved, and at So dear a rate? But why hold I discourse On this sad subject, since it is a burthen We are marked to bear, and not to be shook off But with our human frailty? in the change Of dangers there is some delight, and therefore I am resolved for Naples.

Claud. May you meet there All comforts that so fair and chaste a wife (As Fame proclaims her without parallel) Can yield to ease your sorrows!

Sev. I much thank you; Yet you may spare those wishes, which with joy I have proved certainties, and from their want Her excellencies take lustre.

Claud. Ere you go yet,

Some charge unto your squires not to fly out
Beyond their bounds were not impertinent:

For though that with a look you can command them,
In your absence they'll be headstrong.

Sev. 'Tis well thought on.

I'll touch my horn,—[Blows his horn.]—they know my call.

Claud. And will,

As soon as heard, make in to't from all quarters, As the flock to the shepherd's whistle.

Enter Banditti.

1st Ban. What's your will?
2nd Ban. Hail, sovereign of these woods!
3rd Ban. We lay our lives
At your highness' feet.

4th Ban. And will confess no king, Nor laws but what come from your mouth; and those We gladly will subscribe to. Sev. Make this good,

In my absence, to my substitute, to whom

Pay all obedience as to myself;

The breach of this in one particular

I will severely punish: on your lives,

Remember upon whom with our allowance

You may securely prey, with such as are

Exempted from your fury.

Claud. 'Twere not amiss,

If you please, to help their memory: besides,

Here are some newly initiated.

Sev. To these

Read you the articles; I must be gone:

Claudio, farewell!

[Exit.

Claud. May your return be speedy!

1st Ban. Silence; out with your table-books.

2nd Ban. And observe.

Claud. [Reads.] "The cormorant that lives in expectation

Of a long wished-for dearth, and, smiling, grinds

The faces of the poor, you may make spoil of;

Even theft to such is justice."

3rd Ban. He's in my tables.

Claud. [Reads.] "The grand encloser of the commons, for

His private profit or delight, with all

His herds that graze upon't, are lawful prize."

4th Ban. And we will bring them in, although the devil Stood roaring by, to guard them.

Claud. [Reads.] " If a usurer,

Greedy, at his own price, to make a purchase,

Taking advantage upon bond or mortgage

From a prodigal, pass through our territories,

In the way of custom, or of tribute to us,

You may ease him of his burthen."

2nd Ban. Wholesome doctrine.

Claud. [Reads.] "Builders of iron mills, that grub up forests

With timber trees for shipping."

1st Ban. May we not

Have a touch at lawyers?

Claud. By no means; they may Too soon have a gripe at us; they are angry hornets, Not to be jested with.

3rd Ban. This is not so well.

Claud. [Reads.] "The owners of dark shops, that vent

With perjuries; cheating vintners, not contented With half in half in their reckonings, yet cry out, When they find their guests want coin, 'Tis late and bed-time.'

These ransack at your pleasures."

3rd Ban. How shall we know them?

Claud. If they walk on foot, by their rat-coloured stockings,

And shining-shoes; if horsemen, by short boots, And riding-furniture of several counties.

2nd Ban. Not one of the list escapes us.

Claud. [Reads.] "But for scholars,

Whose wealth lies in their heads, and not their pockets, Soldiers that have bled in their country's service, The rent-racked farmer, needy market folks, The sweaty labourer, carriers that transport The goods of other men, are privileged; But, above all, let none presume to offer Violence to women, for our king hath sworn, Who that way's a delinquent, without mercy Hangs for't, by martial law,"

All. Long live Severino, And perish all such cullions¹ as repine At his new monarchy!

Claud. About your business,

Base fellows; Ital. coglioni.

That he may find, at his return, good cause To praise your care and discipline.

All. We'll not fail sir.

Exeunt.



SCENE V.—A Street in Naples.

Enter LAVAL and CALIPSO.

Lav. Thou art sure mistaken; 'tis not possible That I can be the man thou art employed to.

Calip. Not you the man! you are the man of men, And such another, in my lady's eye, Never to be discovered.

Lav. A mere stranger, Newly arrived!

Calip. Still the more probable.

Since ladies, as you know, affect strange dainties,
And brought far to them!. This is not an age
In which saints live; but women, knowing women,
That understand their summum bonum is
Variety of pleasures in the touch,
Derived from several nations; and if men would
Be wise by their example——

Lav. As most are; 'Tis a coupling age!

Calip. Why, sir, do gallants travel—
Answer that question—but, at their return,
With wonder to the hearers, to discourse of
The garb and difference in foreign females,
As the lusty girl of France, the sober German,
The plump Dutch frow, the stately dame of Spain,
The Roman libertine, and sprightful Tuscan,
The merry Greek, Venetian courtezan,
The English fair companion, that learns something

1 Alluding to the proverb, "Far-fetched and dear-bought is good for ladies."

From every nation, and will fly at all;— I say again, the difference betwixt these And their own country gamesters?

Lav. Aptly urged.

Some make that their main end: but may I ask, Without offence to your gravity, by what title Your lady, that invites me to her favours, Is known in the city?

Calip. If you were a true-born monsieur,
You would do the business first, and ask that after.
If you only truck with her title, I shall hardly
Deserve thanks for my travail; she is, sir,
No single-ducat trader, nor a beldam
So frozen up that a fever cannot thaw her;
No lioness by her breath.

Lav. Leave these impertinencies, And come to the matter.

Calip. Would you'd be as forward When you draw for the upshot! she is, sir, a lady, A rich, fair, well-complexioned, and what is Not frequent among Venus' votaries, Upon my credit, which good men have trusted, A sound and wholesome lady, and her name is Madonna Iölante.

Lav. Iölante!

I have heard of her; for chastity, and beauty, The wonder of the age.

Calip. Pray you, not too much Of chastity; fair and free I do subscribe to, And so you'll find her.

Lav. Come, you are a base creature; And, covering your foul ends with her fair name, Give me just reason to suspect you have A plot upon my life.

Calip. A plot! very fine! Nay, 'tis a dangerous one, pray you beware of't;

¹ Compare Love's Labour's Lost, iv. 1, 138.

'Tis cunningly contrived: I plot to bring you Afoot, with the travel of some forty paces, To those delights which a man not made of snow Would ride a thousand miles for. You shall be Received at a postern door, if you be not cautious, By one whose touch would make old Nestor young, And cure his hernia; a terrible plot! A kiss then ravished from you by such lips As flow with nectar, a juicy palm more precious Than the famed Sibylla's bough, to guide you safe Through mists of perfumes to a glorious room, Where Iove might feast his Juno; a dire plot! A banquet I'll not mention, that is common: But I must not forget, to make the plot More horrid to you, the retiring bower, So furnished as might force the Persian's envy, The silver bathing-tub, the cambric rubbers,1 The embroidered quilt, the bed of gossamer And damask roses; a mere powder plot To blow you up! and last, a bed-fellow, To whose rare entertainment all these are But foils and settings off.

Lav. No more. Her breath Would warm an eunuch.

Calip. I knew I should heat you.

Now he begins to glow!

Lav. I am flesh and blood,

And I were not man if I should not run the hazard. Had I no other ends in't. I have considered Your motion.2 matron.

Calip. My "plot," sir, "on your life," For which I am deservedly suspected For a base and dangerous woman! Fare you well, sir; I'll be bold to take my leave,

<sup>Rubbing cloths.
"Motion" seems to be now confined to parliamentary language;
it was formerly in general use for a proposal.</sup>

Lav. I will along too.

Come, pardon my suspicion: I confess
My error; and, eyeing you better, I perceive
There's nothing that is ill that can flow from you;
I am serious, and, for proof of it, I'll purchase
Your good opinion.

[Gives her his purse.]

Calip. I am gently natured,

And can forget a greater wrong upon Such terms of satisfaction.

Lav. What's the hour?

Calip. Twelve.

Lav. I'll not miss a minute.

Calip. I shall find you

At your lodging?

Lav. Certainly; return my service,

And for me kiss your lady's hands.

Calip. At twelve

I'll be your convoy.

Lav. I desire no better.

Exeunt.





ACT THE THIRD.

SCENE I.—The Country.

Enter Durazzo, Caldoro, and Servant.

UR. Walk the horses down the hill; I have a little

To speak in private. [Exit Servant. Cald. Good sir, no more anger.

Dur. Love do you call it! madness, wilful madness;

And, since I cannot cure it, I would

have you

Exactly mad. You are a lover already, Be a drunkard too, and after turn small poet, And then you are mad, katexokên the madman.

Cald. Such as are safe on shore may smile at tempests; But I, that am embarked, and every minute Expect a shipwreck, relish not your mirth:

To me it is unseasonable.

Dur. Pleasing viands
Are made sharp by sick palates. I affect
A handsome mistress in my gray beard, as well
As any boy of you all; and on good terms
Will venture as far i' the fire, so she be willing
To entertain me; but ere I would dote,
As you do, where there is no flattering hope
Ever to enjoy her, I would forswear wine,

Pre-eminently, which sounds as well in English as in Greek.
Mass. 11.
Q

And kill this lecherous itch with drinking water, Or live, like a Carthusian, on poor John,1 Then bathe myself night by night in marble dew. And use no soap but camphire-balls.2

Cald. You may,

(And I must suffer it,) like a rough surgeon, Apply these burning caustics to my wounds Already gangrened, when soft unguents would Better express an uncle with some feeling Of his nephew's torments.

Dur. I shall melt, and cannot Hold out if he whimper. O that this young fellow. Who, on my knowledge, is able to beat a man. Should be baffled by this blind imagined boy, Or fear his bird-bolts!3

Cald. You have put yourself already To too much trouble, in bringing me thus far: Now, if you please, with your good wishes, leave me To my hard fortunes.

Dur. I'll forsake myself first. Leave thee! I cannot, will not; thou shalt have No cause to be weary of my company, For I'll be useful; and, ere I see thee perish, Dispensing with my dignity and candour,4 I will do something for thee, though it savour Of the old squire of Trov.5 As we ride, we will Consult of the means: bear up.

Cald. I cannot sink. Having your noble aids to buoy me up; There was never such a guardian.

Dur. How is this?

1 Hake fish, dried and salted.

² Camphor was supposed to be a strong anaphrodisiac. See Sir

T. Browne's Vulgar Errors, b. ii., ch. vii., sec. 5.

Blunt-headed arrows ("gross-knobbed," according to Maiston),

used in killing birds.

4 Used by Massinger, apparently, as synonymous with fair reputation; compare Parliament of Love, iv. 3, 21, ⁵ Pandaius.

Stale compliments to me! when my work's done, Commend the artificer, and then be thankful.



SCENE II.—A Room in SEVERINO'S House.

Enter Calista richly habited, and MIRTILLA in the gown which CALISTA first wore.

Calis. How dost thou like my gown?

Mirt. 'Tis rich and courtlike.

Calis. The dressings too are suitable?

Mirt. I must say so,

Or you might blame my want of care.

Calis. My mother

Little dreams of my intended flight, or that

These are my nuptial ornaments.

Mirt. I hope so.

Calis. How dully thou reply'st! thou dost not envy Adorio's noble change, or the good fortune That it brings to me?

Mirt. My endeavours that way

Can answer for me.

Calis. True; you have discharged A faithful servant's duty, and it is By me rewarded like a liberal mistress: I speak it not to upbraid you with my bounties. Though they deserve more thanks and ceremony Than you have yet expressed.

Mirt. The miseries

Which, from your happiness, I am sure to suffer, Restrain my forward tongue; and, gentle madam, Excuse my weakness, though I do appear A little daunted with the heavy burthen I am to undergo: when you are safe, My dangers, like to roaring torrents, will Gush in upon me; yet I would endure

Your mother's cruelty; but how to bear
Your absence, in the very thought confounds me.
Since we were children I have loved and served you;
I willingly learned to obey, as you
Grew up to knowledge, that you might command me;
And now to be divorced from all my comforts!—
Can this be borne with patience?

Calis. The necessity

Of my strange fate commands it; but I vow By my Adorio's love, I pity thee.

Mirt. Pity me, madam! a cold charity; You must do more, and help me.

Calis. Ha! what said you!

I must! is this fit language for a servant?

Mirt. For one that would continue your poor servant, And cannot live that day in which she is Denied to be so. Can Mirtilla sit Mourning alone, imagining those pleasures Which you, this blessed Hymeneal night, Enjoy in the embraces of your lord, And my lord too, in being yours? (already As such I love and honour him.) Shall a stranger Sew you in a sheet, to guard that maidenhead You must pretend to keep; and 'twill become you? Shall another do those bridal offices. Which time will not permit me to remember,1 And I pine here with envy? pardon me,-I must and will be pardoned,—for my passions Are in extremes; and use some speedy means That I may go along with you, and share In those delights, but with becoming distance; Or by his life, which as a saint you swear by, I will discover all! Calis. Thou canst not be

So treacherous and cruel, in destroying The building thou hast raised.

¹ Bring to your remembrance.

Mirt. Pray you do not tempt me, For 'tis resolved.

Calis. [Aside.] I know not what to think of t.

In the discovery of my secrets to her,
I have made my slave my mistress; I must soothe her,
There's no evasion else.—Prithee, Mirtilla,
Be not so violent; I am strangely taken
With thy affection for me; 'twas my purpose
To have thee sent for.

Mirt. When?

Calis. This very night;

And I vow deeply I shall be no sooner In the desired possession of my lord, But by some of his servants I will have thee Conveyed unto us.

Mirt. Should you break!

Calis. I dare not..

Come, clear thy looks, for instantly we'll prepare For our departure.

Mirt. Pray you forgive my boldness, Growing from my excess of zeal to serve you.

Calis. I thank thee for't.

Mirt. You'll keep your word?

Calis. Still doubtful!

Exit.

Mirt. 'Twas this I aimed at, and leave the rest to fortune. [Exit, following.



SCENE III.—A Room in Adorio's House.

Enter Adorio, Camillo, Lentulo, Donato, Cario, and Servants.

Ador. Haste you unto my villa, and take all Provision along with you, and for use And ornament, the shortness of the time Can furnish you; let my best plate be set out,

And costliest hangings; and, if't be possible, With a merry dance to entertain the bride, Provide an epithalamium.

Car. Trust me

For belly-timber: and for a song, I have A paper-blurrer, who on all occasions, For all times, and all seasons, hath such trinkets Ready in the deck: 1 it is but altering The names, and they will serve for any bride, Or bridegroom, in the kingdom.

Ador. But for the dance?

Car. I will make one myself, and foot it finely; And summoning your tenants at my dresser, Which is, indeed, my drum, make a rare choice Of the able youth, such as shall sweat sufficiently, And smell too, but not of amber, which, you know, is The grace of the country-hall.

Ador. About it, Cario, And look you be careful.

Car. For mine own credit, sir.

[Exeunt Carlo and Servants.

Ador. Now, noble friends, confirm your loves, and think not

Of the penalty of the law, that does forbid The stealing away an heir: I will secure you, And pay the breach of't.

Camil. Tell us what we shall do,

We'll talk of that hereafter.

Ador. Pray you be careful

To keep the west gate of the city open, That our passage may be free, and bribe the watch With any sum; this is all.

Don. A dangerous business!

¹ The term signified a pack of cards, and came to be applied to a heap or pile generally.

² Compare Unnatural Combat, iii. 1, 22:

[&]quot;When the dresser, the cook's drum, thunders, Come on!"

Camil. I'll make the constable, watch, and porter drunk.

Under a crown.

Lent. And then you may pass while they snore, Though you had done a murder.

Camil. Get but your mistress,

And leave the rest to us.

Ador. You much engage me;1

But I forget myself.

Camil. Pray you, in what, sir?

Ador. Yielding too much to my affection. Though lawful now, my wounded reputation And honour suffer: the disgrace, in taking A blow in public from Caldoro, branded With the infamous mark of coward, in delaying To right myself, upon my cheek grows fresher; That's first to be considered.

Camil. If you dare

Trust my opinion, (yet I have had Some practice and experience in duels,) You are too tender that way: can you answer The debt you owe your honour till you meet Your enemy from whom you may exact it? Hath he not left the city, and in fear Concealed himself, for aught I can imagine? What would you more?

Ador. I should do.

Camil. Never think on't,

Till fitter time and place invite you to it: I have read Caranza,2 and find not in his Grammar Of quarrels, that the injured man is bound To seek for reparation at an hour;

[&]quot;O, sir, we quarrel in print, by the book; as you have books for good manners," As You Like It, v. 4, 94. Caranza was the author of a popular treatise on duelling, often alluded to by the dramatists. From a passage quoted by Gifford from Jonson's New Inn it seems that he was by this time going out of favour.

But may, and without loss, till he hath settled More serious occasions that import him, For a day or two defer it.

Ador. You'll subscribe

Your hand to this?

Camil. And justify't with my life;

Presume upon't.

Ador. On, then; you shall o'er-rule me.

Exeunt.



Scene IV.-A Room in Severino's House.

Enter IÖLANTE and CALIPSO.

Iöl. I'll give thee a golden tongue, and have it hung up, Over thy tomb, for a monument.

Calip. I am not prepared yet

To leave the world; there are many good pranks

I must dispatch in this kind before I die:

And I had rather, if your honour please,

Have the crowns in my purse.

Iöl. Take that.

Calis. Magnificent lady!

May you live long, and, every moon, love change, That I may have fresh employment! You know what Remains to be done?

Iol. Yes, yes; I will command

My daughter and Mirtilla to their chamber.

Calip. And lock them up; such liquorish kitlings 1 are not

To be trusted with our cream. Ere I go, I'll help you To set forth the banquet, and place the candied eringoes² Where he may be sure to taste them; then undress you,

¹ Kittens.

² Compare Merry Wives of Windsor, v. 5, 21—23: "Let the sky rain potatoes, hail kissing-comfits and snow eringoes; let there come a tempest of provocation."

For these things are cumbersome, when you should be active:

A thin night mantle to hide part of your smock,
With your pearl-embroidered pantofles 1 on your feet,
And then you are armed for service! nay, no trifling;
We are alone, and you know 'tis a point of folly
To be coy to eat when meat is set before you. [Exeunt.



SCENE V.-A Street before SEVERINO'S House.

Enter ADORIO and Servant.

Ador. 'Tis eleven by my watch, the hour appointed. Listen at the door—hear'st thou any stirring?

Serv. No, sir;

All's silent here.

Ador. Some cursed business keeps
Her mother up. I'll walk a little circle,
And show where you shall wait us with the horses,
And then return. This short delay afflicts me,
And I presume to her it is not pleasing.

[Exeunt.

Enter DURAZZO and CALDORO.

Dur. What's now to be done? prithee let's to bed, I am sleepy;

And here's my hand on't, without more ado, By fair or foul play we'll have her to-morrow In thy possession.

Cald. Good sir, give me leave
To taste a little comfort in beholding
The place by her sweet presence sanctified.
She may perhaps, to take air, ope the casement,
And looking out, a new star to be gazed on
By me with adoration, bless these eyes,
Ne'er happy but when she is made the object.

¹ Slippers.

Dur. Is not here fine fooling!
Cald. Thou great Queen of Love,
Or real or imagined, be propitious
To me, thy faithful votary! and I vow
To erect a statue to thee, equal to
Thy picture, by Apelles' skilful hand
Left as the great example of his art;
And on thy thigh I'll hang a golden Cupid,
His torches flaming, and his quiver full,
For further honour!

Dur. End this waking dream, And let's away.

Enter from the house Calista and Mirtilla.

Calis. Mirtilla !

Cald. 'Tis her voice!

Calis. You heard the horses' footing?

Mirt. Certainly.

Calis. Speak low. My Lord Adorio!

Cald. I am dumb.

Dur. The darkness friend us too! Most honoured Adorio, your servant. [madam,

Calis. As you are so,

I do command your silence till we are Further removed; and let this kiss assure you (I thank the sable night that hides my blushes) I am wholly yours.

Dur. Forward, you micher!1

Mirt. Madam,

Think on Mirtilla!

Goes into the house.

Dur. I'll not now inquire

The mystery of this, but bless kind fortune
Favouring us beyond our hopes; yet, now I think on't,
I had ever a lucky hand in such smock night-work.

Exeunt.

¹ Truant; still used by schoolboys. Compare 1 Henry IV., ii. 4, 450.

Enter ADORIO and Servant.

Ador. This slowness does amaze me: she's not altered In her late resolution?

Iöl. [Within.] Get you to bed, And stir not on your life, till I command you.

Ador. Her mother's voice! listen.

Serv. Here comes the daughter.

Re-enter MIRTILLA hastily.

Mirt. Whither shall I fly for succour?
Ador. To these arms,
Your castle of defence, impregnable,
And not to be blown up: how your heart beats!
Take comfort, dear Calista, you are now
In his protection that will ne'er forsake you:
Adorio, your changed Adorio, swears
By your best self, an oath he dares not break,
He loves you, loves you in a noble way,
His constancy firm as the poles of Heaven.
I will urge no reply, silence becomes you;
And I'll defer the music of your voice
Till we are in a place of safety.

Mirt. [Aside.] O blest error!

Exeunt.

Enter SEVERINO.

Sev. 'Tis midnight: how my fears of certain death, Being surprised, combat with my strong hopes Raised on my chaste wife's goodness! I am grown A stranger in this city, and no wonder, I have too long been so unto myself: Grant me a little truce, my troubled soul—I hear some footing, ha!

Enter LAVAL and CALIPSO.

Calip. That is the house,

And there's the key: you'll find my lady ready

To entertain you; 'tis not fit I should

Stand gaping by while you bill: I have brought you
on.

Charge home, and come off with honour.

Exit.

Sev. It makes this way.

Lav. I am much troubled, and know not what to think Of this design.

Sev. It still comes on.

Lav. The watch!

I am betrayed.

Sev. Should I now appear fearful, It would discover me; there's no retiring. My confidence must protect me; I'll appear As if I walked the round.\(^1\)—Stand!

Lav. I am lost.

Sev. The word?

Lav. Pray you forbear; I am a stranger, And missing, this dark stormy night, my way To my lodging, you shall do a courteous office To guide me to it.

Sev. Do you think I stand here For a page or a porter?

Lav. Good sir, grow not so high: ² I can justify my being abroad: I am No pilfering vagabond, and what you are Stands yet in supposition; and I charge you, If you are an officer, bring me before your captain; For if you do assault me, though not in fear Of what you can do alone, I will cry murder, And raise the streets.

Sev. Before my captain, ha! And bring my head to the block. Would we were parted, I have greater cause to fear the watch than he.

Lav. Will you do your duty?

i.e. As if I were one of the watch.

² Compare Antony and Cleopatra, iv. 15, 43: "Let me rail so high,"

Sev. I must close with him:—
Truth, sir, whate'er you are, (yet by your language,
I guess you a gentleman,) I'll not use the rigour
Of my place upon you: only quit this street,
For your stay here will be dangerous; and good night!

Lav. The like to you, sir; I'll grope out my way
As well as I can. O damned bawd!—Fare you well, sir.

[Exit.

Sev. I am glad he's gone; there is a secret passage, Unknown to my wife, through which this key will guide me

To her desired embraces, which must be,
My presence being beyond her hopes, most welcome.

Exit.



SCENE VI.-A Room in SEVERINO'S House.

IÖLANTE is heard speaking behind a curtain.

Iöl. I am full of perplexed thoughts. Imperious blood, Thou only art a tyrant; judgment, reason, To whatsoever thy edicts proclaim, With vassal fear subscribe against themselves. I am yet safe in the port, and see before me, If I put off, a rough tempestuous sea, The raging winds of infamy from all quarters Assuring my destruction; yet my lust Swelling the wanton sails, (my understanding Stowed under hatches,) like a desperate pilot, Commands me to urge on. My pride, my pride, Self-love, and over-value of myself. Are justly punished: I that did deny My daughter's youth allowed and lawful pleasures, And would not suffer in her those desires She sucked in with my milk, now in my waning Am scorched and burnt up with libidinous fire,

That must consume my fame; yet still I throw More fuel on it.

Enter SEVERINO before the curtain.

Sev. 'Tis her voice, poor turtle: She's now at her devotions, praying for Her banished mate; alas, that for my guilt Her innocence should suffer! But I do Commit a second sin in my deferring The ecstasy of joy that will transport her Beyond herself, when she flies to my lips, And seals my welcome.—[Draws the curtain, and discovers Iolante seated, with a rich banquet and tapers set forth.]—Iölante!

Iöl. Ha!

Good angels guard me!

Sev. What do I behold! Some sudden flash of lightning strike me blind, Or cleave the centre of the earth, that I May living find a sepulchre to swallow Me and my shame together!

Iöl. [Aside.] Guilt and horror Confound me in one instant; thus surprised, The subtlety of all wantons, though abstracted, Can show no seeming colour of excuse, To plead in my defence.

Sev. Is this her mourning? O killing object! The imprisoned vapours Of rage and sorrow make an earthquake in me; This little world, like to a tottering tower, Not to be underpropped;—yet, in my fall, I'll crush thee with my ruins. [Draws a poniard.

Iöl. [Kneeling.] Good sir, hold: For, my defence unheard, you wrong your justice, If you proceed to execution; And will, too late, repent it.

Sev. Thy defence!

To move it, adds (could it receive addition)
Ugliness to the loathsome leprosy
That, in thy being a strumpet, hath already
Infected every vein, and spreads itself
Over this carrion, which would poison vultures
And dogs, should they devour it. Yet, to stamp
The seal of reprobation on thy soul,
I'll hear thy impudent lies, borrowed from hell,
And prompted by the devil, thy tutor, whore!
Then send thee to him. Speak.

löl. Your Gorgon looks

Turn me to stone, and a dead palsy seizes

My silenced tongue.

Sev. O Fate, that the disease Were general in women, what a calm Should wretched men enjoy! Speak, and be brief, Or thou shalt suddenly feel me.

Iol. Be appeased, sir, Until I have delivered reasons for This solemn preparation.

Sev. On, I hear thee.

Töl. With patience ask your memory; 'twill instruct you, This very day of the month, seventeen years since, You married me.

Sev. Grant it, what canst thou urge From this?

Fil. That day, since your proscription, sir, In the remembrance of it annually, The garments of my sorrow laid aside, I have with pomp observed.

Sev. Alone!

Iol. The thoughts
Of my felicity then, my misery now,
Were the invited guests; imagination
Teaching me to believe that you were present,
And a partner in it.

Sev. Rare! this real banquet

To feast your fancy: fiend! could fancy drink off These flagons to my health, or the idol Thought 1, Like Baal, devour these delicates? the room Perfumed to take his nostrils! this loose habit. Which Messalina would not wear, put on 1 To fire his lustful eyes! Wretch, am I grown 2 So weak in thy opinion, that it can Flatter credulity that these gross tricks May be foisted on me? Where's my daughter? where The bawd your woman? answer me.—Calista! Mirtilla! they are disposed of, if not murdered, To make all sure; and yet methinks your neighbour, 1 Your whistle, agent, parasite, Calipso, Should be within call, when you hem, to usher in Lays hands on her. \ The close² adulterer. Iöl. What will you do? Sev. Not kill thee, do not hope it; I am not So near to reconcilement. Ha! this scarf. The intended favour to your stallion, now

All studied tortures my assurance, not
My jealousy, thou art false, can pour upon thee.
In darkness howl thy mischiefs; and, if rankness
Of thy imagination can conjure
The ribald hither, glut thyself with him;
I will cry aim! 2 and in another room
Determine of my vengeance. Oh, my heart-strings!

Is useful: do not strive; -[He binds her.] -thus bound,

Exit with the tapers.

¹ Gifford, followed by succeeding editors, reads "idle thought" instead of "idol." Perhaps it was a mere blunder of his printers; in any case, there can be no question that the reading of the old edition is correct. "Baal," in the next line, has no sense whatever with the other reading.

² Secret.

³ An expression borrowed from archery, meaning to encourage the archers by crying "aim," when they were about to shoot, and then in a general sense to applaud, to encourage with cheers.—Schmidt,

Compare King John, ii. 1, 196:

expect

"It ill beseems this presence to cry aim To these ill-tuned repetitions," Iöl. Most miserable woman! and yet, sitting judge in mine own cause upon myself, could not mitigate the heavy doom My incensed husband must pronounce upon me. In my intents I am guilty, and for them Must suffer the same punishment as if I had in fact offended.

Calip. [Within.] Bore my eyes out,
If you prove me faulty: I'll but tell my lady
What caused your stay, and instantly present you.

Enter CALIPSO. .

How's this? no lights! What new device? will she play

At blindman's buff?—Madam!

Iöl. Upon thy life,

Speak in a lower key.

Calip. The mystery

Of this, sweet lady? where are you?

Iöl. Here, fast bound.

Calip. By whom?

I'll whisper that into thine ear,

And then farewell for ever.---

Calip. How! my lord?

I am in a fever: horns upon horns grow on him! Could he pick no hour but this to break a bargain Almost made up?

Jöl. What shall we do?

Calip. Betray him;

I'll instantly raise the watch.

Iöl. And so make me

For ever infamous.

Calip. The gentleman,

The rarest gentleman is at the door;

shall he lose his labour? Since that you must perish,

Twill show a woman's spleen in you to fall

Deservedly; give him his answer, madam.

R

I have on the sudden in my head a strange whimsie; But I will first unbind you. [Frees IÖLANTÉ.

Iöl. Now what follows?

Calip. I will supply your place, and bound: [IÖLANTE binds CALIPSO.] give me

Your mantle, take my night-gown; send away
The gentleman satisfied. I know my lord
Wants power to hurt you; I perhaps may get
A kiss by the bargain, and all this may prove
But some neat love-trick: if he should grow furious,
And question me, I am resolved to put on
An obstinate silence. Pray you dispatch the gentleman.
His courage may cool.

I'll speak with him, but if To any base or lustful end, may mercy At my last gasp forsake me!

Exit.

Calip. I was too rash,

And have done what I wish undone: say he should kill me?

I have run my head in a fine noose, and I smell The pickle I am in! 'las, how I shudder Still more and more! would I were a she-Priapus, Stuck up in a garden to fright away the crows, So I were out of the house! she's at her pleasure, Whate'er she said; and I must endure the torture—He comes; I cannot pray, my fears will kill me.

Re-enter Severino with a knife in his hand, throwing open the doors violently.

Sev. It is a deed of darkness, and I need No light to guide me; there is something tells me I am too slow-paced in my wreak,¹ and trifle In my revenge. All hushed! no sigh nor groan, To witness her compunction! can guilt sleep, And innocence be open-eyed? even now, Perhaps, she dreams of the adulterer,

¹ Vengeance.

And in her fancy hugs him. Wake, thou strumpet, And instantly give up unto my vengeance The villain that defiles my bed; discover Both what and where he is, and suddenly, That I may bind you face to face, then sew you Into one sack, and from some steep rock hurl you Into the sea together; do not play with The lightning of my rage; break stubborn silence, And answer my demands; will it not be? I'll talk no longer; thus I mark thee for Strikes at her with the knife. A common strumpet.

Calip. Oh!

Sev. Thus stab these arms That have stretched out themselves to grasp a stranger. Calip. Oh!

Sev. This is but an induction: I will draw The curtains of the tragedy hereafter: Howl on, 'tis music to me.

Exit.

Calip. He is gone.

A "kiss," and "love-tricks!" he hath villainous teeth, May sublimed mercury draw them! if all dealers In my profession were paid thus, there would be A dearth of cuckolds. Oh my nose! I had one: My arms, my arms! I dare not cry for fear; Cursed desire of gold, how art thou punished!

Re-enter IÖLANTE.

I'd. Till now I never truly knew myself. Nor by all principles and lectures read In chastity's cold school, was so instructed As by her contrary, how base and deformed Loose appetite is; as in a few short minutes This stranger hath, and feelingly, delivered. Oh! that I could recall my bad intentions, And be as I was yesterday untainted In my desires, as I am still in fact, I thank his temperance! I could look undaunted Upon my husband's rage, and smile at it, So strong the guards and sure defences are Of armed innocence; but I will endure The penance of my sin, the only means Is left to purge it. The day breaks.—Calipso!

Calip. Here, madam, here.

Iöl. Hath my lord visited thee?

Calip. Hell take such visits! these stabbed arms, and loss

Of my nose you left fast on, may give you a relish What a night I have had of't, and what you had suffered.

Had I not supplied your place.

Iöl. I truly grieve for't;

Did not my husband speak to thee?

Calip. Yes, I heard him,

And felt him, ecce signum, with a mischief!
But he knew not me; like a true-bred Spartan boy,
With silence I endured it; he could not get
One syllable from me.

Iöl. Something may be fashioned From this; invention help me! I must be sudden.

[Unbinds her.

Thou art free, exchange, quick, quick! now bind me sure,

And leave me to my fortune.

Calip. Pray you consider

The loss of my nose; had I been but carted for you,² Though washed with mire and chamber-lye, I had

Examples to excuse me; but my nose,

My nose, dear lady!

I'll send to thee.

[Exit CALIPSO.

If so, it may take; if it fail, I must Suffer whatever follows.

¹ The old edition reads "fox." There can be no doubt of the correctness of the emendation first introduced by Monck Mason.

2 In allusion to the practice of carting loose women.

Re-enter Severino with the knife and taper.

Sev. I have searched
In every corner of the house, yet find not
My daughter, nor her maid; nor any print
Of a man's footing, which, this wet night, would
Be easily discerned, the ground being soft,
At his coming in or going out.

Iol. [Aside.] 'Tis he,

And within hearing; Heaven forgive this feigning, I being forced to't to preserve my life,
To be better spent hereafter!

Sev. I begin

To stagger, and my love, if it knew how, (Her piety heretofore, and fame remembered,) Would plead in her excuse.

Til. [Aloud.] You blessed guardians
Of matrimonial faith, and just revengers
Of such as do in fact offend against
Your sacred rites and ceremonies; by all titles
And holy attributes you do vouchsafe
To be invoked, look down with saving pity
Upon my matchless² sufferings!

Sev. At her devotions:

Affliction makes her repent.

Töl. Look down

Upon a wretched woman, and as I
Have kept the knot of wedlock, in the temple
By the priest fastened, firm; (though in loose wishes
I yield I have offended;) to strike blind
The eyes of jealousy, that see a crime
I never yet committed, and to free me
From the unjust suspicion of my lord,
Restore my martyred face and wounded arms

¹ The original reads: "And I am within hearing," which is neither metre nor sense. "I am" was omitted by Gifford.

3 Unequalled.

To their late strength and beauty.

Sev. Does she hope

To be cured by miracle?

Iöl. This minute I

Perceive with joy my orisons heard and granted. You ministers of mercy, who unseen, And by a supernatural means, have done This work of heavenly charity, be ever Canonized for't!

Sev. I did not dream, I heard her,
And I have eyes too, they cannot deceive me:
If I have no belief in their assurance,
I must turn sceptic. Ha! this is the hand,
And this the fatal instrument: these drops
Of blood, that gushed forth from her face and arms,
Still fresh upon the floor. This is something more
Than wonder or amazement; I profess
I am astonished.

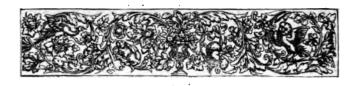
Iöl. Be incredulous still,
And go on in your barbarous rage, led to it
By your false guide, suspicion; have no faith
In my so long tried loyalty, nor believe
That which you see; and for your satisfaction,
My doubted innocence cleared by miracle,
Proceed; these veins have now new blood, if you
Resolve to let it out.

Sev. [Aside.] I would not be fooled
With easiness of belief, and faintly give
Credit to this strange wonder; 'tis now thought on;
In a fitter place and time I'll sound this further.
How can I expiate my sin? or hope, [Untics her.
Though now I write myself thy slave, the service
Of my whole life can win thee to pronounce
Despaired-of pardon? Shall I kneel? that's poor;
Thy mercy must urge more in my defence
Than I can fancy: wilt thou have revenge?
My heart lies open to thee.

I'il. This is needless
To me, who, in the duty of a wife,
Know I must suffer.

Sev. Thou art made up of goodness, And from my confidence that I am alone The object of thy pleasures, until death Divorce us, we will know no separation. Without inquiring why, as sure thou wilt not, Such is thy meek obedience, thy jewels And choicest ornaments packed up, thou shalt Along with me, and as a queen be honoured By such as style me sovereign. Already My banishment is repealed, thou being present; The Neapolitan court a place of exile When thou art absent: my stay here is mortal, Of which thou art too sensible, I perceive it; Come, dearest Iölante, with this breath All jealousy is blown away. [Embraces her. Iol. Be constant. Excunt.





ACT THE FOURTH.

SCENE I.—The Country.

A noise within; then enter Durazzo, Caldoro, and Servant, with Calista in their arms.



UR. Hell take the stumbling jade!

Cald. Heaven help the lady!

Serv. The horse hath broke his neck.

Dur. Would thine were cracked too,

So the lady had no harm! Give her

fresh air,

'Tis but a swoon.

Cald. 'Tis more, she's dead.

Dur. Examine

Her limbs if they be whole: not too high, not too high, You ferret; this is no coney-burrow¹ for you. How do you find her?

Cald. No breath of comfort, sir: too cruel fate! Had I still pined away, and lingered under The modesty of just and honest hopes, After a long consumption, sleep and death To me had been the same; but now, as 'twere, Possessed of all my wishes, in a moment To have them ravished from me! suffer shipwreck In view of the port! and, like a half-starved beggar, No sooner in compassion clothed, but coffined!—Malevolent destinies, too cunning in

1 Rabbit-hole.

Wretched Caldoro's tortures! O Calista,
If thy immortal part hath not already
Left this fair palace, let a beam of light
Dawn from thine eye, in this Cimmerian darkness,
To guide my shaking hand to touch the anchor
Of hope in thy recovery.

Calis. Oh!

Dur. She lives;

Disturb her not: she is no right-bred woman, If she die with one fall; some of my acquaintance Have took a thousand merrily, and are still Excellent wrestlers at the close hug.

Cald. Good sir-

• Dur. Prithee be not angry, I should speak thus if My mother were in her place.

Cald. But had you heard

The music of the language which she used To me, believed Adorio, as she rode Behind me; little thinking that she did Embrace Caldoro——

Calis. Ah, Adorio!

Dur. Leave talking, I conceive it.

Calis. Are you safe?

Cald. And raised, like you, from death to life, to hear you.

Calis. Hear my defence then, ere I take my veil off, A simple maid's defence, which, looking on you, I faintly could deliver. Willingly I am become your prize, and therefore use Your victory nobly; Heaven's bright eye, the sun, Draws up the grossest vapours, and I hope I ne'er shall prove an envious cloud to darken The splendour of your merits. I could urge With what disdain, nay scorn, I have declined The shadows of insinuating pleasures Tendered by all men else, you only being The object of my hopes: that cruel prince

To whom the olive-branch of peace is offered, Is not a conqueror, but a bloody tyrant, If he refuse it; nor should you wish a triumph, Because Calista's humble: I have said, And now expect your sentence.

Dur. What a throng
Of clients would be in the court of Love.
Were there many such she-advocates! Art thou dumb?
Canst thou say nothing for thyself?

Cald. [Kneels.] Dear lady, Open your eyes, and look upon the man, The man you have elected for your judge, Kneeling to you for mercy.

Calis. I should know

with't.

This voice, and something more than fear I am Deceived; but now I look upon his face, I am assured I am wretched.

Dur. Why, good lady?—
Hold her up, she'll fall again before her time else.—
The youth's a well-timbered youth, look on his making;
His hair curled naturally; he's whole-chested too,
And will do his work as well, and go through-stitch

As any Adorio in the world, my state¹ on't! A chicken of the right kind: and if he prove not A cock of the game, cuckold him first, and after Make a capon of him.

Calis. I'll cry out a rape, If thou unhand me not: would I had died In my late trance, and never lived to know I am betrayed!

Dur. To a young and active husband!
Call you that treachery? there are a shoal of
Young wenches i' the city, would vow a pilgrimage
Beyond Jerusalem, to be so cheated.—
To her again, you milk-sop! violent storms

¹ Estate.

Are soon blown over.

Calis. How couldst thou, Caldoro,
With such a frontless¹ impudence arm thy hopes
So far as to believe I might consent
To this lewd practice? have I not often told thee
Howe'er I pitied thy misplaced affection,
I could not answer it; and that there was
A strong antipathy between our passions
Not to be reconciled?

Cald. Vouchsafe to hear me
With an impartial ear, and it will take from
The rigour of your censure. Man was marked
A friend, in his creation, to himself,
And may with fit ambition conceive
The greatest blessings, and the highest honours
Appointed for him, if he can achieve them
The right and noble way: I grant you were
The end of my design, but still pursued
With a becoming modesty, Heaven at length
Being pleased, and not my arts, to further it.

Dur. Now he comes to her: on, boy! Cald. I have served you

With a religious zeal, and borne the burthen
Of your neglect, if I may call it so,
Beyond the patience of a man: to prove this,
I have seen those eyes with pleasant glances play
Upon Adorio's, like Phœbe's shine,
Gilding a crystal river; and your lip
Rise up in civil courtship to meet his
While I bit mine with envy: yet these favours,
Howe'er my passion's raged, could not provoke me
To one act of rebellion against
My loyalty to you, the sovereign
To whom I owe obedience.

Calis. My blushes Confess this for a truth,

¹ Shameless.

² The moon's.

Dur. A flag of truce is Hung out in this acknowledgment. Cald. I could add. But that you may interpret what I speak The malice of a rival, rather than My due respects to your deserts, how faintly Adorio hath returned thanks to the bounty Of your affection, ascribing it As a tribute to his worth, and not in you An act of mercy: could he else, invited (As by your words I understood) to take you To his protection, grossly neglect So gracious an offer, or give power To Fate itself to cross him? O, dear madam, We are all the balls of Time, tossed to and fro, From the plough unto the throne, and back again: Under the swing of destiny mankind suffers, And it appears, by an unchanged decree, You were appointed mine; wise nature always Aiming at due proportion: and if so, I may believe with confidence, Heaven, in pity Of my sincere affection, and long patience, Directed you, by a most blessèd error,

Dur. By my holidame,1

To your vowed servant's bosom.

Tickling philosophy!

Calis. I am, sir, too weak
To argue with you; but my stars have better,
I hope, provided for me.

Cald. If there be Disparity between us, 'tis in your Compassion to level it.

Dur. Give fire

To the mine, and blow her up.

Calis. I am sensible

Of what you have endured; but on the sudden,

A corruption of "halidom" (holiness)—a common oath.

With my unusual travel, and late bruise,

I am exceeding weary. In yon grove,
While I repose myself, be you my guard;
My spirits with some little rest revived,
We will consider further: for my part,
You shall receive modest and gentle answers
To your demands, though short, perhaps, to make you Full satisfaction.

Cald. I am exalted In the employment; sleep secure, I'll be Your vigilant sentinel.

Calis. But I command you,
And, as you hope for future grace, obey me,
Presume not with one stolen kiss to disturb
The quiet of my slumbers; let your temperance,
And not your lust, watch o'er me.

Cald. My desires

Are frozen, till your pity shall dissolve them.

Dur. Frozen! think not of frost, fool, in the dog-days. Remember the old adage, and make use of't, "Occasion's bald behind."

Calis. Is this your uncle?

Cald. And guardian, madam: at your better leisure, When I have deserved it, you may give him thanks For his many favours to me.

Calis. He appears

A pleasant gentleman. [Exeunt Caldoro and Calista. Dur. You should find me so.

But that I do hate incest. I grow heavy; Sirrah, provide fresh horses; I'll seek out Some hollow tree, and dream till you return,

Which I charge you to hasten.

Serv. With all care, sir.

Exeunt.



SCENE II.—The Country. A Room in Addrio's Flouse.

Enter Carlo with several Villagers, Musicians, &c.

Car. Let your eyes be rivetted to my heels, and miss

A hair's-breadth of my footing; our dance has A most melodious note, and I command you To have ears like hares this night, for my lord's honour, And something for my worship: your reward is To be drunk-blind like moles, in the wine-cellar:

And though you ne'er see after, 'tis the better;

You were born for this night's service. And, do you hear.

Wire-string and cat-gut men, and strong-breathed haut-

For the credit of your calling, have not your instruments To tune when you should strike up; but twang it perfectly.

As you would read your neck-verse: 1 and you, warbler, Keep your wind-pipe moist, that you may not spit and hem.

When you should make division.2 How I sweat! Authority is troublesome: -[A horn within.]—they are come.

I know it by the cornet that I placed On the hill to give me notice. Marshal yourselves I' the rear; 3 the van is yours.

Enter Adorio, Mirtilla, Camillo, Lentulo, and DONATO.

Now chant it sprightly.

¹ The first verse of the 51st Psalm (Miserere mei, Deus, &c.), read by criminals claiming the benefit of clergy.

² Compare Romeo and Juliet, i i. 5, 29: "Some say the lark makes sweet division." In music it means a sort of shake or trill.

³ This is spoken to the dancers; the next words are addressed to the musicians.

SONG.

Juno to the Bride.

Enter a maid; but made a bride,
Be bold, and freely taste
The marriage banquet, ne'er denied
To such as sit down chaste.
Though he unloose thy virgin zone,
Presumed against thy will,
Those joys reserved to him alone,
Thou art a virgin still.

HYMEN to the Bridegroom.

Hail, bridegroom, hail! thy choice thus made,
As thou wouldst have her true,
Thou must give o'er thy wanton trade,
And bid loose fires adieu.
That husband who would have his wife
To him continue chaste,
In her embraces spends his life,
And makes abroad no waste.

HYMEN and JUNO.

Sport then like turtles, and bring forth
Such pledges as may be
Assurance of the father's worth,
And mother's purity.
Juno doth bless the nuptial bed;
Thus Hymen's torches burn.
Live long, and may, when both are dead,
Your ashes fill one urn!

Ador. A well-penned ditty.

Camil. Not ill sung.

Ador. What follows?

Car. Use your eyes.—If ever—now your masterpiece!

A Dance.

Ador. 'Tis well performed: take that, but not from me; 'Tis your new lady's bounty, thank her for it; All that I have is hers.

Car. I must have three shares

For my pains and properties, the rest shall be
Divided equally. [Exeunt Carlo, Villagers, &c.

Mirt. My real fears Begin, and soon my painted comforts vanish, In my discovery.

Ador. Welcome to your own!
You have (a wonder in a woman) kept
Three long hours' silence; and the greater, holding
Your own choice in your arms, a blessing for which
I will be thankful to you: nay, unmask,
And let mine eye and ears together feast,
Too long by you kept empty. Oh, you want
Your woman's help; I'll do her office for you.

Takes off her mask.

Mirtilla !

Camil. It is she, and wears the habit In which Calista three days since appeared, As she came from the temple.

Lent. All this trouble

For a poor waiting-maid!

Don. We are grossly gulled.

Ador. Thou child of impudence, answer me, and truly, Or, though the tongues of angels pleaded mercy, Tortures shall force it from thee.

Mirt. Innocence

Is free, and open-breasted; of what crime Stand I accused, my lord?

Ador. What crime! no language
Can speak it to the height; I shall become
Discourse for fools and drunkards. How was this
Contrived? who helped thee in the plot? discover.
Were not Calista's aids in't?

Mirt. No, on my life;

Nor am I faulty.

Ador. No! what May-game's this?
Didst thou treat with me for thy mistress' favours,
To make sale of thine own?

Mirt. With her and you

I have dealt faithfully: you had her letter
With the jewel I presented: she received
Your courteous answer, and prepared herself
To be removed by you: and howsoever
You take delight to hear what you have done,
From my simplicity, and make my weakness
The subject of your mirth, as it suits well
With my condition, I know you have her
In your possession.

Ador. How! has she left

Her mother's house?

Mirt. You drive this nail too far.

Indeed she deeply vowed, at her departure,
To send some of your lordship's servants for me,
(Though you were pleased to take the pains yourself,)
That I might still be near her, as a shadow
To follow her, the substance.

Ador. She is gone, then?

Mirt. This is too much; but, good my lord, forgive me, I come a virgin hither to attend

My noble mistress, though I must confess,

I look with sore eyes upon her good fortune,

And wish it were my own.

Ador. Then, as it seems,
You do yourself affect me?
Mirt. Should she hear me,
And in her sudden fury kill me for't,
I durst not, sir, deny it; since you are
A man so formed, that not poor I alone,
But all our sex like me, I think, stand bound
To be enamoured of you.

Ador. O my fate!

How justly am I punished, in thee punished, For my defended ' wantonness! I, that scorned The mistress when she sought me, now I would Upon my knees receive her, am become A prey unto her bondwoman, my honour too Neglected for this purchase. Art thou one of those Ambitious serving-women, who, contemning The embraces of their equals, aim to be The wrong way ladyfied, by a lord? was there No forward page or footman in the city To do the feat, that in thy lust I am chosen To be the executioner? dar'st thou hope I can descend so low?

Mirt. Great lords sometimes

For change leave calvered salmon,² and eat sprats:

In modesty I dare speak no more.

Camil. If 'twere

A fish-day, though you like it not, I could say I have a stomach, and would content myself With this pretty whiting-mop.³

Ador. Discover yet

How thou cam'st to my hands.

Mirt. My lady gone,

Fear of her mother's rage, she being found absent,
Moved me to fly; and quitting of the house,
You were pleased, unasked, to comfort me; (I used
No sorceries to bewitch you;) then vouchsafed
(Thanks ever to the darkness of the night!)
To hug me in your arms; and I had wronged
My breeding near the court, had I refused it.

Ador. This is still more bitter. Canst thou guess to whom

¹ Forbidden; Fr. défendu. Compare Milton, Paradise Lost, xi. 86: "that defended fruit."

² An Elizabethan dainty; see the recipe in Nares, s.v. calver.

³ A young whiting: "For so we call little fishes that be not come to their full growth moppes, as whiting-moppes, &c."—Puttenham, Arte of English Poesie. Used of girls as a term of endearment.

Thy lady did commit herself?

Mirt. They were

Horsemen, as you are.

Ador. In the name of wonder, How could they pass the port, where you expected My coming?

Camil. Now I think upon't, there came Three mounted by, and, behind one, a woman Embracing fast the man that rode before her.

Lent. I knew the men; but she was veiled.

Ador. What were they?

Lent. The first the Lord Durazzo, and the second, Your rival, young Caldoro: it was he

That carried the wench behind him.

Don. The last a servant,

That spurred fast after them.

Ador. Worse and worse! 'twas she!

Too much assurance of her love undid me.

Why did you not stay them?

Don. We had no such commission.

Camil. Or say we had, who durst lay fingers on

The angry old ruffian?

Lent. For my part, I had rather

Take a baited bull by the horns.

Ador. You are sure friends

For a man to build on!

Camil. They are not far off,

Their horses appeared spent too; let's take fresh ones,

And coast the country; ten to one we find them.

Ador. I will not eat nor sleep, until I have them:

Moppet², you shall along too.

Mirt. So you please

I may keep my place behind you, I'll sit fast, And ride with you all the world o'er.

Camil. A good girl!

[Exeunt.

¹ Gate. Fr. Porte.

² Used in the same way as "mop."

SCENE III.—A Street in Naples.

Enter LAVAL and CALIPSO.

Lav. Her husband? Severino?

Calip. You may see

His handiwork by my flat face; no bridge Left to support my organ, if I had one: The comfort is, I am now secure from the crincomes. I can lose nothing that way.

Lav. Dost thou not know What became of the lady?

Calip. A nose was enough to part with, I think, in the service; I durst stay no longer: But I am full assured the house is empty, Neither poor lady, daughter, servant left there. I only guess he hath forced them to go with him To the dangerous forest, where he lives like a king, Among the banditti; and how there he hath used them, Is more than to be feared.

Lav. I have played the fool, And kept myself too long concealed, sans question, With the danger of her life. Leave me—the king!

Enter Alphonso and Captain.

Calip. The surgeon must be paid.

Lav. Take that.

Gives her money.

Exit.

Calip. I thank you;

I have got enough by my trade, and I will build An hospital only for noseless bawds, ('Twill speak my charity,) and be myself

The governess of the sisterhood.

Alph. I may

Forget this in your vigilance hereafter; But as I am a king, if you provoke me The second time with negligence of this kind, You shall deeply smart for't.

Lav. The king's moved.

Alph. To suffer

A murderer, by us proscribed, at his pleasure To pass and re-pass through our guards!

Capt. Your pardon

For this, my gracious lord, binds me to be More circumspect hereafter.

Alph. Look you be so:

Monsieur Laval, you were a suitor to me For Severino's pardon.

Lav. I was so, my good lord.

Alph. You might have met him here, to have thanked you for't,

As now I understand.

Lav. So it is rumoured:

And hearing in the city of his boldness,
I would not say contempt of your decrees,
As then I pleaded mercy, under pardon,
I now as much admire the slowness of
Your justice (though it force you to some trouble)
In fetching him in.

Alph. I have considered it.

Lav. He hath of late, as 'tis suspected, done An outrage on his wife, forgetting nature To his own daughter; in whom, sir, I have Some nearer interest than I stand bound to In my humanity, which I gladly would Make known unto your highness.

Alph. Go along,

You shall have opportunity as we walk.— See you what I committed to your charge, In readiness, and without noise.

Capt. I shall, sir.

[Exeunt.





ACT THE FIFTH.

SCENE I.—The Forest.

Enter CLAUDIO and all the Banditti, making a guard; SEVERINO and IÖLANTE with oaken-leaved garlands; Singers.

Song.

Welcome, thrice welcome to this shady green, Our long-wished Cynthia, the forest's queen, The trees begin to bud, the glad birds sing In winter, changed by her into the spring.

We know no night,
Perpetual light
Dawns from your eye.
You being near,
We cannot fear,
Though Death stood by.

From you our swords take edge, our hearts grow bold From you in fee their lives your liegemen hold. These groves your kingdom, and our law your will Smile, and we spare; but if you frown, we kill.

Bless then the hour
That gives the power
In which you may,
At bed and board,
Embrace your lord
Both night and day.

Welcome, thrice welcome to this shady green, Our long-wished Cynthia, the forest's queen! Sev. Here, as a queen, share in my sovereignty: The iron toils pitched by the law to take The forfeiture of my life, I have broke through, And, secure in the guards of these few subjects, Smile at Alphonso's fury; though I grieve for The fatal cause, in your good brother's loss, That does compel me to this course.

Jöl. Revive not

A sorrow long since dead, and so diminish
The full fruition of those joys which now
I stand possessed of: womanish fear of danger
That may pursue us, I shake off, and with
A masculine spirit.

Sev. 'Tis well said.

Iöl. In you, sir,

I live; and when, or by the course of nature, Or violence, you must fall, the end of my Devotions is, that one and the same hour May make us fit for Heaven.

Sev. I join with you

In my votes 2 that way: but how, Iölante, You that have spent your past days, slumbering in The down of quiet, can endure the hardness And rough condition of our present being, Does much disturb me.

I'il. These woods, Severino,
Shall more than seem to me a populous city,
You being present; here are no allurements
To tempt my frailty, nor the conversation
Of such whose choice behaviour, or discourse,
May nourish jealous thoughts.

Sev. True, Iölante;

Nor shall suspected chastity stand in need here To be cleared by miracle.

I'v. Still on that string!

¹ Accented on the first syllable. ² Vows; Lat. vota.

It yields harsh discord.

Sev. I had forgot myself,

And wish I might no more remember it.

The day wears, sirs, without one prize brought in

As tribute to your queen: Claudio, divide

Our squadron in small parties, let them watch

All passages, that none escape without

The payment of our customs.

Claud. Shall we bring in

The persons, with the pillage?

Sev. By all means;

Without reply, about it: we'll retire

[Exeunt CLAUDIO and the rest.

Into my cave, and there at large discourse Our fortunes past, and study some apt means To find our daughter; since, she well disposed of, Our happiness were perfect.

Iöl. We must wait

With patience Heaven's pleasure.

Sev. 'Tis my purpose.

[Exeunt.



SCENE II.—Another part of the Forest.

Enter LENTULO and CAMILLO.

Lent. Let the horses graze, they are spent.

Camil. I am sure I'm sleepy,

And nodded as I rode: here was a jaunt

I' the dark through thick and thin, and all to no pur-What a dulness grows upon me! [pose!

Lent. I can hardly

Hold ope mine eyes to say so. How did we lose Adorio?

[They sit down,

Camil. He, Donato, and the wench, That cleaves to him like birdlime, took the right hand: But this place is our rendezvous. Lent. No matter.

We'll talk of that anon—heigh ho!

[Falls asleep.

Camil. He's fast

Already. Lentulo!—I'll take a nap too. [Falls asleep.

Enter Adorio, Mirtilla, and Donato.

Ador. Was ever man so crossed?

Mirt. [Aside.] So blest: this is

The finest wild-goose chase!

Ador. What's that you mutter?

Mirt. A short prayer, that you may find your wishedfor love.

Though I am lost for ever.

Don. Pretty fool!

Who have we here!

Ador. This is Camillo.

Mirt. This Signior Lentulo.

Ador. Wake them.

Don. They'll not stir;

Their eyelids are glued, and mine too: by your favour, I'll follow their example. Lies down.

Ador. Are you not weary?

Mirt. I know not what the word means, while I travel To do you service,

Ador. You expect to reap

The harvest of your flattery; but your hopes

Will be blasted, I assure you.

Mirt. So you give leave

To sow it, as in me a sign of duty,

Though you deny your beams of gracious favour

To ripen it, with patience I shall suffer.

Ador. No more. My resolution to find

Calista, by what accident lost I know not,

Binds me not to deny myself what nature Exacteth from me: to walk alone afoot

(For my horse is tired) were madness; I must sleep.

You could lie down too?

Falls asleep.

Mirt. Willingly; so you please To use me---Ador. Use thee! Mirt. As your pillow, sir; I dare presume no farther. Noble sir. Do not too much contemn me; generous feet Spurn not a fawning spaniel. Ador. Well; sit down. Mirt. I am ready, sir. Ador. So nimble! Mirt. Love is active. Nor would I be a slow thing: rest secure, sir; On my maidenhead, I'll not ravish vou. Ador. For once. So far I'll trust you. Lays his head on her lap. Mirt. All the joys of rest Dwell on your eyelids; let no dream disturb Your soft and gentle slumbers! I cannot sing, But I'll talk you asleep; and I beseech you Be not offended, though I glory in My being thus employed: a happiness That stands for more than ample satisfaction For all I have, or can endure.—He snores, And does not hear me; would his sense of feeling Were bound up too! I should-I am all fire. Such heaps of treasure offered as a prey Would tempt a modest thief; I can no longer Forbear—I'll gently touch his lips, and leave No print of mine: [Kisses him.] ah! —I have heard of nectar, But till now never tasted it; these rubies Are not clouded by my breath: if once again I steal from such a full exchequer, trifles Will not be missed; — [Kisses him again.] — I am entranced: our fancy.

Some say, in sleep works stronger; I will prove

How far my——

Enter Durazzo.

Dur. My bones ache,
I am exceeding cold too; I must seek out
A more convenient truckle-bed. Ha! do I dream?
No, no, I wake. Camillo, Lentulo,
Donato this, and, as I live, Adorio
In a handsome wench's lap! a whoreson! you are
The best accommodated. I will call
My nephew and his mistress to this pageant;
The object may perhaps do more upon her
Than all Caldoro's rhetoric. With what
Security they sleep! sure Mercury
Hath travelled this way with his charming-rod.
Nephew! Calista! Madam!

Enter CALDORO and CALISTA.

Cald. Here, sir. Is

Your man returned with horses?

Dur. No, boy, no;

But here are some you thought not of.

Calis. Adorio!

Dur. The idol that you worshipped.

Calis. This Mirtilla!

I am made a stale.1

Dur. [Aside.] I knew 'twould take.

Calis. False man!

But much more treacherous woman! 'Tis apparent, They jointly did conspire against my weakness And credulous simplicity, and have Prevailed against it.

Cald. I'll not kill them sleeping;
But, if you please, I'll wake them first, and after
Offer them, as a fatal sacrifice,
To your just anger.

Dur. You are a fool; reserve Your blood for better uses.

i.e. A stalking-horse to one's design.

Calis. My fond love Is changed to an extremity of hate; His very sight is odious.

Dur. I have thought of

A pretty punishment for him and his comrades, Then leave him to his harlotry; if she prove not Torture enough, hold me an ass. Their horses Are not far off; I'll cut the girts¹ and bridles, Then turn them into the wood; if they can run, Let them follow us as footmen. Wilt thou fight For what's thine own already!

Calis. In his hat

He wears a jewel² which this faithless strumpet, As a salary of her lust, deceived me of; He shall not keep't to my disgrace, nor will I Stir till I have it.

Dur. I am not good at nimming;³
And yet that shall not hinder us: by your leave, sir;
'Tis restitution: pray you all bear witness
I do not steal it; here 'tis.

[Takes off Addrio's hat, and removes the jewel, which he gives to Calista.

Calis. Take it,-not

As a mistress' favour, but a strong assurance I am your wife. [Gives it to CALDORO.

Cald. O Heaven!

Dur. Pray in the church.

Let us away. Nephew, a word; have you not Been billing in the brakes, ha! and so deserved This unexpected favour?

Cald. You are pleasant.

[Exeunt Durazzo, Caldoro, and Calista.

1 This is still the general provincial pronunciation of "girths."
2 Probably a brooch, which it was then the fashion to wear in

the hat.

3 "Nim" is given in Boyer's French Dictionary as an equivalent to "filch," but it is marked as a "mean or vulgar word." The word is really pure Saxon.

Ador. As thou art a gentleman, kill me not basely; [Starts up; the rest awake.

Give me leave to draw my sword.

Camil. Ha! what's the matter?

Lent. He talked of's sword.

Don. I see no enemy near us,

That threatens danger.

Mirt. Sure 'twas but a dream.

Ador. A fearful one. Methought Caldoro's sword

Was at my throat, Calista frowning by,

Commanding him, as he desired her favour,

To strike my head off.

Camil. Mere imagination

Of a disturbed fancy.

Mirt. Here's your hat, sir,

Ador. But where's my jewel?

Camil. By all likelihood lost,

This troublesome night.

Don. I saw it when we came

Unto this place.

Mirt. I looked upon't myself,

When you reposed.

Ador. What is become of it?

Restore it, for thou hast it; do not put me

To the trouble to search you.

Mirt. Search me!

Ador. You have been,

Before your lady gave you entertainment,

A night-walker in the streets.

Mirt. How, my good lord!

Ador. Traded in picking pockets, when tame gulls,

Charmed with your prostituted flatteries,

Deigned to embrace you.

Mirt. Love, give place to anger.

Charge me with theft, and prostituted baseness!

Were you a judge, nay more, the king, thus urged,

To your teeth I would say, 'tis false.

Ador. This will not do.

Camil. Deliver it in private.

Mirt. You shall be

In public hanged first, and the whole gang of you.

I steal what I presented!

Lent. Do not strive.

Ador. Though thou hast swallowed it, I'll rip thy entrails,

But I'll recover it.

[Seizes her.

Mirt. Help, help!

CLAUDIO and two Banditti rush upon them with pistols.

Ador. A new plot!

Claud. Forbear, libidinous monsters! if you offer

The least resistance, you are dead. If one

But lay his hand upon his sword, shoot all.

Ador. Let us fight for what we have, and if you can Win it, enjoy it.

Claud. We come not to try

Your valour, but for your money; throw down your sword, Or I'll begin with you: so! if you will

Walk quietly without bonds, you may, if not

We'll force you.—[To MIRTILLA.] Thou shalt have no wrong,

But justice against these.

1st Ban. We'll teach you, sir,

To meddle with wenches in our walks.

2nd Ban. It being

Against our canons.

Camil. Whither will you lead us?

Claud. You shall know that hereafter.—Guard them sure. [Exeunt.



SCENE III.—Another part of the Forest.

Enter ALPHONSO disguised as an Old Man, LAVAL, and Captain.

Alph. Are all the passages stopped?

Capt. And strongly manned;

They must use wings, and fly, if they escape us.

Lav. But why, great sir, you should expose your person To such apparent danger, when you may Have them brought bound before you, is beyond My apprehension.

Alph. I am better armed

Than you suppose: besides, it is confirmed By all that have been robbed, since Severino Commanded these banditti, (though it be Unusual in Italy,) imitating The courteous English thieves, for so they call them, They have not done one murder: I must add too, That, from a strange relation I have heard Of Severino's justice in disposing The preys brought in, I would be an eye-witness Of what I take up now but on report: And therefore 'tis my pleasure that we should, As soon as they encounter us, without A show of opposition, yield.

Lav. Your will

Is not to be disputed.

Alph. You have placed

Your ambush so, that, if there be occasion,

They suddenly may break in?

Capt. My life upon't.

Alph. We cannot travel far, but we shall meet With some of these good fellows; 1 and be sure You do as I command you.

Lav. Without fear, sir.

[Exeunt.

A cant term for thieves. "Good fellows be thieves."—Heywood, Edward IV.

SCENE IV.—Another part of the Forest.

Enter SEVERINO and IÖLANTE.

Sev. 'Tis true; I did command Calista should not, Without my knowledge and consent, assisted By your advice, be married; but your Restraint, as you deliver it, denying A grown-up maid the modest conversation Of men, and warrantable pleasures, relished Of too much rigour, which, no doubt, hath driven her To take some desperate course.

Iöl. What then I did Was, in my care, thought best.

Sev. So I conceive it;

But where was your discretion to forbid Access, and fit approaches, when you knew Her suitors noble, either of which I would Have wished my son-in-law? Adorio, However wild, a young man of good parts, But better fortunes: his competitor, Caldoro, for his sweetness of behaviour, Staidness, and temperance, holding the first place Among the gallants most observed in Naples; His own revenues of a large extent, But in the expectation of his uncle And guardian's entradas, by the course Of nature to descend on him, a match For the best subject's blood, I except none Of eminence in Italy.

löl. Your wishes, Howe'er a while delayed, are not, I hope, Impossibilities.

Sev. Though it prove so,
Yet 'tis not good to give a check to fortune,
When she comes smiling to us.—[Cornet within.]—Hark!
this cornet

¹ Rents, Spanish.

Assures us of a prize; there sit in state, 'Tis thy first tribute.

I'il. Would we might enjoy

Our own as subjects!

Sev. What's got by the sword,

Is better than inheritance: all those kingdoms Subdued by Alexander were by force extorted,

Though gilded o'er with glorious styles of conquest:

His victories but royal robberies,

And his true definition a thief.

When circled with huge navies, to the terror

Of such as ploughed the ocean, as the pirate,

Who, from a narrow creek, puts off for prey

In a small pinnace.—[Cornet within.]—From a second place

New spoil brought in! [Cornet within.] -- from a third party! brave!

This shall be registered a day of triumph, Designed by fate to honour thee.

Enter CLAUDIO.

Welcome, Claudio!

Good booty, ha?

Enter, at different sides, various parties of the Banditti; one with Adorio, Lentulo, Donato, Camillo, Mir-TILLA; another with DURAZZO, CALDORO, CALISTA; and the rest with ALPHONSO, LAVAL, and Captain.

Claud. Their outsides promise so; But vet they have not made discovery Of what they stand possessed of.

Sev. Welcome all;

Good boys! you have done bravely, if no blood Be shed in the service.

1st Ban. On our lives, no drop, sir.

Sev. 'Tis to my wish.

Iol. My lord!

Mass. II.

Sev. No more; I know them.

I'il. My daughter, and her woman too!

Sev. Conceal

Your joys.

Dur. Fallen in the devil's mouth!

Calis, My father,

And mother! to what fate am I reserved?

Cald. Continue masked; or, grant that you be known,

From whom can you expect a gentle sentence,

If you despair a father's?

Ador. Now I perceive

Which way I lost my jewel.

Mirt. I rejoice

I'm cleared from theft: you have done me wrong, but I, Unasked, forgive you.

Dur. 'Tis some comfort yet,

The rivals, men and women, friends and foes, are Together in one toil.

Sev. You all look pale,

And by your private whisperings and soft murmurs. Express a general fear: pray you shake it off; For understand you are not fallen into The hands of a Busiris or a Cacus, Delighted more in blood than spoil, but given up To the power of an unfortunate gentleman, Not born to these low courses, howsoever My fate, and just displeasure of the king, Designed me to it: you need not to doubt A sad captivity here, and much less fear For profit, to be sold for slaves, then shipped Into another country; in a word, You know the proscribed Severino, he, Not unacquainted, but familiar with The most of you.-Want in myself I know not But for the pay of these my squires, who eat

Their bread with danger purchased, and must be With others' fleeces clothed, or live exposed

To the summer's scorching heat and winter's cold; To these, before you be compelled, (a word I speak with much unwillingness,) deliver Such coin as you are furnished with.

Dur. A fine method!

This is neither begging, borrowing, nor robbery; Yet it hath a twang of all of them: but one word, sir.

Sev. Your pleasure.

Dur. When we have thrown down our muck, What follows?

Sev. Liberty, with a safe convoy,

To any place you choose.

Dur. By this hand, you are

A fair fraternity! for once I'll be

The first example to relieve your covent.1

There's a thousand crowns, my vintage, harvest, profits

Arising from my herds, bound in one bag;

Share it among you.

Sev. You are still the jovial,

And good Durazzo.

Dur. To the offering; nay,

No hanging an arse², this is their wedding-day:

What you must do spite of your hearts, do freely For your own sakes.

Camil. There's mine.

Lent. Mine.

Don. All that I have.

Cald. This, to preserve my jewel.

Ador. Which I challenge:

Let me have justice, for my coin I care not.

Lav. I will not weep for mine.

Capt. Would it were more.

[They all throw down their purses.

1 An older form of the word "convent," preserved in "Covent Garden."

² The phrase in the text is given in Boyer's French Dictionary, with equivalents in French meaning "to go from, to show little resolution in, what one has undertaken."

Sev. Nay, you are privileged; but why, old father, [To the King.

Art thou so slow? thou hast one foot in the grave, And, if desire of gold do not increase With thy expiring lease of life, thou shouldst Be forwardest.

Alph. In what concerns myself,
I do acknowledge it; and I should lie,
A vice I have detested from my youth,
If I denied my present store, since what
I have about me now weighs down in value,
Almost a hundred-fold, whatever these
Have laid before you: see! I do groan under

[Throws down three bags.

The burthen of my treasure: nay, 'tis gold; And, if your hunger of it be not sated With what already I have shown unto you, Here's that shall glut it. In this casket are Inestimable jewels, diamonds Of such a piercing lustre as struck blind The amazèd lapidary, while he laboured To honour his own art in setting them: Some orient pearls too, which the queen of Spain Might wear as ear-rings, in remembrance of The day that she was crowned.

Sev. The spoils, I think, Of both the Indies!

Dur. The great Sultan's poor, If paralleled with this Crœsus.

Sev. Why dost thou weep?

Alph. From a most fit consideration of My poverty; this, though restored, will not Serve my occasions.

Sev. Impossible!

¹ This is of course said to the captain, who, being a soldier, was allowed to be a poor man. See the character of Belgarde in *The Unnatural Combat*, and Character IV. in Day's Parliament of Bees.

Dur. May be he would buy his passport up to heaven; And then this is too little; though, in the journey, It were a good viaticum.1

Alph. I would make it

A means to help me thither: not to wrong you With tedious expectation, I'll discover What my wants are, and yield my reasons for them. I have two sons, twins, the true images Of what I was at their years; never father Had fairer or more promising hopes in his Posterity; but, alas! these sons, ambitious Of glittering honour, and an after-name, Achieved by glorious, and yet pious actions, (For such were their intentions,) put to sea: They had a well-rigged bottom,2 fully manned, An old experienced master, lusty sailors, Stout landmen, and, what's something more than rare, They did agree, had one design, and that was In charity to redeem the Christian slaves Chained in 3 the Turkish servitude.

Sev. A brave aim!

Dur. A most heroic enterprise; I languish To hear how they succeeded.

Alph. Prosperously,

At first, and to their wishes: divers galleys They boarded, and some strong forts near the shore They suddenly surprised: a thousand captives, Redeemed from the oar, paid their glad vows and prayers For their deliverance: their ends acquired. And making homeward in triumphant manner. For sure the cause deserved it-

¹ A pun on the two meanings of "viaticum"—its primary and less used sense of provisions for a journey, and its derivative and more general meaning of the eucharist given to the dying.

3 "A bottom [ship], navis."—Coles' Lat. Dict.

3 I retain Gifford's emendation "in" for "to," as the latter word.

seems very likely to have been misprinted through confusion with the "to" just above it in the preceding line.

Dur. Pray you end here; The best, I fear, is told, and that which follows Must conclude ill.

Alph. Your fears are true, and yet I must with grief relate it. Prodigal fame In every place, with her loud trump, proclaiming The greatness of the action, the pirates Of Tunis and Argiers¹ laid wait for them At their return: to tell you what resistance They made, and how my poor sons fought, would but Increase my sorrow, and, perhaps, grieve you To hear it passionately described unto you. In brief, they were taken, and, for the great loss The enemy did sustain, their victory Being with much blood bought, they do endure The heaviest captivity wretched men Did ever suffer. O my sons! my sons! To me for ever lost! lost, lost for ever! Sev. Will not these heaps of gold, added to thine,

Sev. Will not these heaps of gold, added to thine, Suffice for ransom?

Alph. For my sons it would; But they refuse their liberty, if all That were engaged with them have not their irons, With theirs, struck off, and set at liberty with them; Which these heaps cannot purchase.

Sev. Ha! the toughness
Of my heart melts. Be comforted, old father;
I have some hidden treasure, and if all
I and my squires these three years have laid up
Can make the sum up, freely take't.

Dur. I'll sell

Myself to my shirt, lands, moveables; and thou Shalt part with thine too, nephew, rather than Such brave men shall live slaves.

2nd Ban. We will not yield to't. 3rd Ban. Nor lose our parts.

¹ Algiers.

". How's this!

d Ban. You are fitter far

e a churchman than to have command good fellows.1

y. Thus I ever use

Strikes them down.

saucy rascals; second me, Claudio. llious! do you grumble? I'll not leave

rogue of them alive.

bh. Hold:—give the sign.

Discovers himself.

4. The king!

2. Then I am lost.

rud. The woods are full

mèd men.

5h. No hope of your escape latter you.

. Mercy, dread sir!

Kneels.

5h. Thy carriage

s unlawful course appears so noble, ially in this last trial which upon you, that I wish the mercy

tneel in vain for might fall gently on you:

hen the holy oil was poured upon ead, and I anointed king, I swore

to pardon murder. I could wink at

robberies, though our laws call them death,

o dispense with Monteclaro's blood

d ill become a king; in him I lost

thy subject, and must take from you ct account of't. 'Tis in vain to move;

oom's irrevocable.

2. Not, dread sir. nteclaro live.

h. If! good Laval.

7. He lives in him, sir, that you thought Laval.

Discovers himself.

years have not so altered me, but you may

¹ See note ante, p. 271.

Remember Monteclaro.

Dur. How!

Iöl. My brother!

Calis. Uncle!

Mont. Give me leave: I was 1

Left dead in the field, but by the Duke Montpensier, Now general at Milan, taken up, And with much care recovered.

Alph. Why lived you

So long concealed?

Mont. Confounded with the wrong I did my brother, in provoking him To fight, I spent the time in France that I Was absent from the court, making my exile The punishment imposed upon myself For my offence.

Iöl. Now, sir, I dare confess all: This was the guest invited to the banquet, That drew on your suspicion.

Sev. Your intent,

Though it was ill in you, I do forgive;

The rest I'll hear at leisure. Sir, your sentence.

Alph. It is a general pardon unto all, Upon my hopes, in your fair lives hereafter, You will deserve it.

All. Long live great Alphonso!

Dur. Your mercy shown in this, now, if you please, Decide these lovers' difference.

Alph. That is easy;

I'll put it to the women's choice, the men

¹ The metre is defective; it is odd, too, to find Severino silent at this juncture. Perhaps something has dropped out, and the reading should be—

Remember Monteclaro.

Dur. How!

Töl. My brother!

Sev. And mine too!

Calis. Uncle! Give, &c.—S. W. O.

Consenting to it.

Calis. Here I fix then, never

To be removed.

[Embraces CALDORO.

Cald. 'Tis my nil ultra, sir,

Mirt. O, that I had the happiness to say So much to you! I dare maintain my love Is equal to my lady's.

Ador. But my mind

A pitch above yours: marry with a servant Of no descent or fortune!

Sev. You are deceived:

Howe'er she has been trained up as a servant,
She is the daughter of a noble captain,
Who, in his voyage to the Persian Gulf,
Perished by shipwreck; one I dearly loved.
He to my care entrusted her, having taken
My word, if he returned not like himself,
I never should discover what she was;
But, it being for her good, I will dispense with't.
So much, sir, for her blood; now for her portion:
So dear I hold the memory of my friend,
It shall rank with my daughter's.

Ador. This made good,

I will not be perverse.

Dur. With a kiss confirm it.

Ador. I sign all concord here; but must to you, sir,

For reparation of my wounded honour, The justice of the king consenting to it, Denounce a lawful war.

Alph. This in our presence!

Ador. The cause, dread sir, commands it: though your edicts

Call private combats, murders; rather than Sit down with a disgrace, arising from A blow, the bonds of my obedience shook off, I'll right myself.

Cald. I do confess the wrong, Forgetting the occasion, and desire Remission from you, and upon such terms As by his sacred majesty shall be judged Equal on both parts.

Ador. I desire no more.

Alph. All then are pleased; it is the glory of A king to make and keep his subjects happy: For us, we do approve the Roman maxim,—To save one citizen is a greater prize Than to have killed in war ten enemies.

Exeunt.



I am left to inquire, then to relate
To the still-doubtful author, at what rate
His merchandise are valued. If they prove
Staple commodities, in your grace and love
To this last birth of his Minerva, he
Vows (and we do believe him) seriously,
Sloth cast off, and all pleasures else declined,
He'll search with his best care, until he find
New ways, and make good in some laboured song,
Though he grow old, Apollo still is young.
Cherish his good intentions, and declare
By any signs of favour, that you are
Well pleased, and with a general consent;
And he desires no more encouragement.





THE VIRGIN-MARTYR.









HE date of the first production of *The Virgin-Martyr* is not known. The first quarto appeared in 1622, and there were other editions in 1631, 1651, and 1661. The play was a very popular one, and was frequently patched up by the stage-cobblers. In Sir George Buck's office-book, October 6th, 1620, is the

entry: "For new reforming The Virgin-Martyr for the Red Bull, 40s.;" and in Sir Henry Herbert's, July 7th, 1624: "Received for the adding of a new scene to The Virgin-Martyr, 10s." The title-page of the first quarto runs: "The Virgin Martir, A Tragedie, as it hath bin divers times publickely Acted with great Applause, By the seruants of his Maiesties Reuels. Written by Phillip Messenger and Thomas Deker. London, Printed by B. A. for Thomas Iones, 1622." The plot—such as it is—is no doubt "founded," as Gifford says, "on the tenth and last general persecution of the Christians in the nineteenth year of Dioclesian's reign."

Authorities are somewhat divided as to what is Massinger's and what Dekker's part in this play. Dekker is generally accredited with the prose scenes, which are not likely to add very much to his reputation at the present day; and there can be no reasonable question that the most beautiful of the Dorothea portions are his also. Massinger's hand is equally evident in the more stately and argumentative parts of the play. Perhaps after all it was due to the union of these two ill-assorted fellow-workers that the play obtained its remarkable popularity.



DIOCLESIAN, MAXIMINUS. Emperors of Rome.

KING OF PONTUS.

KING OF EPIRE.

KING OF MACEDON.

SAPRITIUS, Governor of Cæsarea.

THEOPHILUS, a zealous Persecutor of the Christians.

SEMPRONIUS, Captain of SAPRITIUS' Guards.

ANTONINUS, Son to SAPRITIUS.

MACRINUS, Friend to ANTONINUS.

HARPAX, an evil Spirit, following THEOPHILUS in the shape of a Secretary.

ANGELO, a good Spirit, serving DOROTHEA in the habit of a Page.

HIRCIUS, a Whoremaster, SPUNGIUS, a Drunkard. Servants of DOROTHEA.

JULIANUS, Servants of THEOPHILUS.

Priest of Jupiter.

British Slave.

Officers and Executioners.

ARTEMIA, Daughter of DIOCLESIAN.

CALISTA, Daughters of THEOPHILUS.

DOROTHEA, the Virgin-Martyr.

SCENE-CÆSAREA.

¹ As in *The Guardian*, this word throughout the quarto edition of the present play is spelt Caliste.





THE VIRGIN-MARTYR.

ACT THE FIRST.

SCENE I.-The Governor's Palace.

Enter THEOPHILUS and HARPAX.



HEO. Come to Cæsarea to night!

Harp. Most true, sir.

Theo. The emperor in person!

Harp. Do I live?

Theo. 'Tis wondrous strange! The marches of great princes,

Like to the motions of prodigious

meteors,

Are step by step observed; and loud-tongued Fame The harbinger to prepare their entertainment:
And, were it possible so great an army,
Though covered with the night, could be so near,
The governor cannot be so unfriended
Among the many that attend his person,
But, by some secret means, he should have notice
Of Cæsar's purpose;—in this, then, excuse me,
If I appear incredulous.

Harp. At your pleasure.

Theo. Yet, when I call to mind you never failed me In things more difficult, but have discovered Deeds that were done thousand leagues distant from me, When neither woods, nor caves, nor secret vaults,

No, nor the Power they serve, could keep these Christians

Or from my reach or punishment, but thy magic Still laid them open; I begin again To be as confident as heretofore, It is not possible thy powerful art Should meet a check, or fail.

Enter the Priest of Jupiter, bearing an Image, and followed by Calista and Christeta.

Harp. Look on these Vestals. The holy pledges that the gods have given you, Your chaste, fair daughters. Were't not to upbraid A service to a master not unthankful. I could say these, in spite of your prevention, Seduced by an imagined faith, not reason (Which is the strength of nature), quite forsaking The Gentile gods, had yielded up themselves To this new-found religion. This I crossed, Discovered their intents, taught you to use, With gentle words and mild persuasions, The power and the authority of a father, Set off with cruel threats; and so reclaimed them: And, whereas they with torments should have died, (Hell's furies to me, had they undergone it!) [Aside. They are now votaries in great Jupiter's temple, And, by his priest instructed, grown familiar With all the mysteries, nay, the most abstruse ones, Belonging to his deity.

Theo. 'Twas a benefit
For which I ever owe you.—Hail, Jove's flamen!
Have these my daughters reconciled themselves,
Abandoning for ever the Christian way,
To your opinion?

Priest. And are constant in it.

They teach their teachers with their depth of judgment,
And are with arguments able to convert

The enemies to our gods, and answer all They can object against us.

Theo. My dear daughters!

Cal. We dare dispute against this new-sprung sect, In private or in public.

Harp. My best lady,

Perséver in it.

Chris. And what we maintain

We will seal with our bloods.

Harp. Brave resolution!

I e'en grow fat to see my labours prosper.

Theo. I young again. To your devotions.

Harp. Do-

My prayers be present with you.

Exeunt Priest, CALISTA, and CHRISTETA.

Theo. O my Harpax!

Thou engine of my wishes, thou that steel'st My bloody resolutions, thou that arm'st My eyes 'gainst womanish tears and soft compassion, Instructing me, without a sigh, to look on Babes torn by violence from their mothers' breasts To feed the fire, and with them make one flame; Old men, as beasts, in beasts' skins torn by dogs; Virgins and matrons tire the executioners; Yet I, unsatisfied, think their torments easy—

Harp. And in that, just, not cruel.

Theo. Were all sceptres

That grace the hands of kings made into one, And offered me, all crowns laid at my feet, I would contemn them all,—thus spit at them; So I to all posterities might be called The strongest champion of the pagan gods, And rooter-out of Christians.

Harp. Oh, mine own,

Mine own dear lord! to further this great work, I ever live thy slave.

Mass. II.

Enter SAPRITIUS and SEMPRONIUS.

Theo. No more—The governor.

Sap. Keep the ports close, and let the guards be doubled;

Disarm the Christians; call it death in any To wear a sword, or in his house to have one.

Semp. I shall be careful, sir.

Sap. 'Twill well become you. Such as refuse to offer sacrifice

To any of our gods, put to the torture.

Grub up this growing mischief by the roots;

And know, when we are merciful to them, We to ourselves are cruel.

'Semp. You pour oil

On fire that burns already at the height: I know the emperor's edict, and my charge, And they shall find no favour.

Theo. My good lord, This care is timely for the entertainment Of our great master, who this night in person Comes here to thank you.

Sap. Who! the emperor?

Harp. To clear your doubts, he does return in triumph, Kings lackeying by his triumphant chariot; And in this glorious victory, my lord, You have an ample share: for know, your son, The ne'er-enough-commended Antoninus, So well hath fleshed his maiden sword, and dyed His snowy plumes so deep in enemies' blood, That, besides public grace beyond his hopes, There are rewards propounded.

Sap. I would know No mean in thine, could this be true.

Harp. My head Answer the forfeit.

Sap. Of his victory

There was some rumour: but it was assured, The army passed a full day's journey higher, Into the country.

Harp. It was so determined;
But, for the further honour of your son,
And to observe the government of the city,
And with what rigour, or remiss indulgence,
The Christians are pursued, he makes his stay here:

[Trumpets afar off.

For proof, his trumpets speak his near arrival.

Sap. Haste, good Sempronius, draw up our guards, And with all ceremonious pomp receive The conquering army. Let our garrison speak Their welcome in loud shouts, the city show Her state and wealth.

Semp. I'm gone.

Exit.

Sap. O, I am ravished

With this great honour! cherish, good Theophilus,
This knowing scholar. Send for your fair daughters;
I will present them to the emperor,
And in their sweet conversion, as a mirror,
Express your zeal and duty.

Theo. Fetch them, good Harpax. [Exit HARPAX.

Enter Sempronius, at the head of the guard, soldiers leading three Kings bound; Antoninus and Macrinus bearing the Emperor's eagles; Dioclesian with a gilt laurel on his head, leading in Artemia; Sapritius kisses the Emperor's hand, then embraces his Son; Harpax brings in Calista and Christeta. Loud shouts.

Dioc. So: at all parts I find Cæsarea
Completely governed: the licentious soldier
Confined in modest limits, and the people
Taught to obey, and not compelled with rigour:
The ancient Roman discipline revived,
Which raised Rome to her greatness, and proclaimed her

The glorious mistress of the conquered world; But, above all, the service of the gods
So zealously observed, that, good Sapritius,
In words to thank you for your care and duty,
Were much unworthy Dioclesian's honour,
Or his magnificence to his loyal servants.—
But I shall find a time with noble titles
To recompense your merits.

Sap. Mightiest Cæsar, Whose power upon this globe of earth is equal To Jove's in heaven; whose victorious triumph

To Jove's in heaven; whose victorious triumphs On proud rebellious kings that stir against it, Are perfect figures of his immortal trophies Won in the Giants' war; whose conquering sword, Guided by his strong arm, as deadly kills As did his thunder! all that I have done, Or, if my strength were centupled, could do. Comes short of what my loyalty must challenge. But, if in anything I have deserved Great Cæsar's smile, 'tis in my humble care Still to preserve the honour of those gods That make him what he is: my zeal to them I ever have expressed in my fell hate Against the Christian sect that, with one blow. (Ascribing all things to an unknown Power.) Would strike down all their temples, and allow them

Nor sacrifice nor altars.

Dioc. Thou, in this, Walk'st hand in hand with me: my will and power Shall not alone confirm, but honour all That are in this most forward.

Sap. Sacred Cæsar, If your imperial majesty stand pleased To shower your favours upon such as are The boldest champions of our religion;

¹ Munificence.

Look on this reverend man, [Points to Theophilus] to `whom the power

Of searching out and punishing such delinquents Was by your choice committed: and, for proof, He hath deserved the grace imposed upon him, And with a fair and even hand proceeded, Partial to none, not to himself, or those Of equal nearness to himself, behold This pair of virgins.

Dioc. What are these? Sap. His daughters.

Artem. Now by your sacred fortune, they are fair ones.

Exceeding fair ones: would 'twere in my power To make them mine!

Theo. They are the gods', great lady,
They were most happy in your service else:
On these, when they fell from their father's faith,
I used a judge's power, entreaties failing
(They being seduced) to win them to adore
The holy Powers we worship; I put on
The scarlet robe of bold authority,
And, as they had been strangers to my blood,
Presented them, in the most horrid form,
All kinds of tortures; part of which they suffered
With Roman constancy.

Artem. And could you endure, Being a father, to behold their limbs Extended on the rack?

Theo. I did; but must
Confess there was a strange contention in me,
Between the impartial office of a judge,
And pity of a father; to help justice
Religion stepped in, under which odds
Compassion fell:—yet still I was a father.
For e'en then, when the flinty hangman's whips
Were worn with stripes spent on their tender limbs,

I kneeled, and wept, and begged them, though they would

Be cruel to themselves, they would take pity
On my gray hairs: now note a sudden change,
Which I with joy remember; those, whom torture,
Nor fear of death could terrify, were o'ercome
By seeing of my sufferings; and so won,
Returning to the faith that they were born in,
I gave them to the gods. And be assured,
I that used justice with a rigorous hand,
Upon such beauteous virgins, and mine own,
Will use no favour, where the cause commands me,
To any other; but, as rocks, be deaf
To all entreaties.

Dioc. Thou deserv'st thy place;
Still hold it, and with honour. Things thus ordered
Touching the gods, 'tis lawful to descend
To human cares, and exercise that power
Heaven has conferred upon me;—which that you,
Rebels and traitors to the power of Rome,
Should not with all extremities undergo,
What can you urge to qualify your crimes,
Or mitigate my anger?

K. of Epir. We are now
Slaves to thy power, that yesterday were kings,
And had command o'er others; we confess
Our grandsires paid yours tribute, yet left us,
As their forefathers had, desire of freedom.
And, if you Romans hold it glorious honour,
Not only to defend what is your own,
But to enlarge your empire, (though our fortune
Denies that happiness,) who can accuse
The famished mouth, if it attempt to feed?
Or such whose fetters eat into their freedoms,
If they desire to shake them off?

K. of Pon. We stand
The last examples, to prove how uncertain

All human happiness is; and are prepared To endure the worst.

K. of Mac. That spoke which now is highest In Fortune's wheel must, when she turns it next, Decline as low as we are. This considered. Taught the Ægyptian Hercules, Sesostris, That had his chariot drawn by captive kings, To free them from that slavery;—but to hope Such mercy from a Roman were mere madness: We are familiar with what cruelty Rome, since her infant greatness, ever used Such as she triumphed over: age nor sex Exempted from her tyranny; sceptered princes Kept in her common dungeons, and their children, In scorn trained up in base mechanic arts, For public bondmen. In the catalogue Of those unfortunate men, we expect to have Our names remembered.

Dioc. In all growing empires, Even cruelty is useful; some must suffer, And be set up examples to strike terror In others, though far off: but, when a state Is raised to her perfection, and her bases Too firm to shrink or yield, we may use mercy, And do't with safety: but to whom? not cowards, Or such whose baseness shames the conqueror, And robs him of his victory, as weak Perseus Did great Æmilius. Know, therefore, kings Of Epire, Pontus, and of Macedon, That I with courtesy can use my prisoners, As well as make them mine by force, provided That they are noble enemies: such I found you, Before I made you mine; and, since you were so, You have not lost the courages of princes, Although the fortune. Had you borne yourselves Dejectedly, and base, no slavery Had been too easy for you: but such is

The power of noble valour, that we love it Even in our enemies, and, taken with it, Desire to make them friends, as I will you.

K. of Epir. Mock us not, Cæsar.

Dioc. By the gods, I do not.

Unloose their bonds:—I now as friends embrace you. Give them their crowns again.

K. of Pont. We are twice o'ercome; By courage, and by courtesy.

K. of Mac. But this latter

Shall teach us to live ever faithful vassals To Dioclesian, and the power of Rome.

K. of Epir. All kingdoms fall before her!

K. of Pon. And all kings

Contend to honour Cæsar!

Dioc. I believe

Your tongues are the true trumpets of your hearts, And in it I most happy. Queen of fate, Imperious Fortune! mix some light disaster With my so many joys, to season them, And give them sweeter relish: I'm girt round With true felicity; faithful subjects here, Here bold commanders, here with new-made friends: But, what's the crown of all, in thee, Artemia, My only child, whose love to me and duty Strive to exceed each other!

Artem. I make payment
But of a debt, which I stand bound to tender
As a daughter and a subject.

Dioc. Which requires yet
A retribution from me, Artemia,
Tied by a father's care, how to bestow
A jewel, of all things to me most precious:
Nor will I therefore longer keep thee from
The chief joys of creation, marriage rites;
Which that thou mayst with greater pleasures taste of,
Thou shalt not like with mine eyes, but thine own.

Amongst these kings, forgetting they were captives; Or these, remembering not they are my subjects, Make choice of any: by Jove's dreadful thunder, My will shall rank with thine.

Artem. It is a bounty
The daughters of great princes seldom meet with;
For they, to make up breaches in the state,
Or for some other politic ends, are forced
To match where they affect not. May my life
Deserve this favour!

Dioc. Speak; I long to know The man thou wilt make happy.

Artem. If that titles,

Or the adorèd name of Queen could take me, Here would I fix mine eyes, and look no farther; But these are baits to take a mean-born lady, Not her that boldly may call Cæsar father: In that I can bring honour unto any, But from no king that lives receive addition: To raise desert and virtue by my fortune, Though in a low estate, were greater glory Than to mix greatness with a prince that owes No worth but that name only.

Dioc. I commend thee; 'Tis like thyself.

Artem. If, then, of men beneath me,
My choice is to be made, where shall I seek,
But among those that best deserve from you?
That have served you most faithfully; that in dangers
Have stood next to you; that have interposed
Their breasts as shields of proof, to dull the swords
Aimed at your bosom; that have spent their blood
To crown your brows with laurel?

Macr. Cytherea,

Great Queen of Love, be now propitious to me!

Harp. [To Sapritius.] Now mark what I foretold.

Anton. [Aside.] Her eye's on me.

Fair Venus' son, draw forth a leaden dart¹
And, that she may hate me, transfix her with it;
Or, if thou needs wilt use a golden one,
Shoot in the behalf of any other:
Thou know'st I am thy votary elsewhere.

Artem. [Advances to Antoninus.] Sir.

Theo. How he blushes!

Sap. Welcome, fool, thy fortune.

Stand like a block when such an angel courts thee!

Artem. I am no object to divert your eye From the beholding.

Anton. Rather a bright sun,
Too glorious for him to gaze upon
That took not first flight from the eagle's aerie.
As I look on the temples, or the gods,
And with that reverence, lady, I behold you,
And shall do ever.

Artem. And it will become you,
While thus we stand at distance; but, if love,
Love born out of the assurance of your virtues,
Teach me to stoop so low——

Anton. O, rather take

A higher flight.

Artem. Why, fear you to be raised?
Say I put off the dreadful awe that waits
On majesty, or with you share my beams,
Nay, make you to outshine me; change the name
Of Subject into Lord, rob you of service
That's due from you to me; and in me make it
Duty to honour you, would you refuse me?

Anton. Refuse you, madam! such a worm as I

Refuse what kings upon their knees would sue for! Call it, great lady, by another name; An humble modesty, that would not match A molehill with Olympus.

¹ See note ante, p. 49.

Artem. He that's famous
For honourable actions in the war,
As you are, Antoninus, a proved soldier,
Is fellow to a king.

Anton. If you love valour,
As 'tis a kingly virtue, seek it out,
And cherish it in a king; there it shines brightest,
And yields the bravest lustre. Look on Epire,
A prince, in whom it is incorporate:
And let it not disgrace him that he was
O'ercome by Cæsar; it was a victory,
To stand so long against him: had you seen him,
How in one bloody scene he did discharge
The parts of a commander and a soldier,
Wise in direction, bold in execution;
You would have said, great Cæsar's self excepted,

The world yields not his equal.

Artem. Yet I have heard.

Encountering him alone in the head of his troop, You took him prisoner.

K. of Epir. 'Tis a truth, great princess; I'll not detract from valour.

Anton. 'Twas mere fortune;

Courage had no hand in it.

Theo. Did ever man

Strive so against his own good?

Sap. Spiritless villain!

How I am tortured! By the immortal gods, I now could kill him.

Dioc. Hold, Sapritius, hold,

On our displeasure hold!

Harp. Why, this would make

A father mad; 'tis not to be endured

Your honour's tainted in't.

Sap. By Heaven, it is; I shall think of it.

Harp. 'Tis not to be forgotten.

Artem. Nay, kneel not, sir; I am no ravisher, Nor so far gone in fond affection to you, But that I can retire, my honour safe:

Yet say, hereafter, that thou hast neglected What, but seen in possession of another, Will run thee mad with envy.

Anton. In her looks

Revenge is written.

Mac. As you love your life, Study to appease her.

Anton. Gracious madam, hear me.

Artem. And be again refused?

Anton. The tender of

My life, my service, nay,¹ since you vouchsafe it, My love, my heart, my all: and pardon me, Pardon, dread princess, that I made some scruple To leave a valley of security,
To mount up to the hill of majesty,
On which, the nearer Jove, the nearer lightning.
What knew I, but your grace made trial of me;
Durst I presume to embrace, where but to touch With an unmannered hand, was death? The fox, When he saw first the forest's king, the lion,
Was almost dead² with fear; the second view
Only a little daunted him; the third,
He durst salute him boldly: pray you, apply this;
And you shall find a little time will teach me
To look with more familiar eyes upon you

Than duty yet allows me. Sap. Well excused.

Artem. You may redeem all yet.

Dioc. And, that he may

Have means and opportunity to do so,

1 The quarto has "not." Gifford read "or"; but "nay" is more likely to have been the word.

² The quarto has "drad," which, though an old word for "afraid," cannot be in place here. "Almost afraid with fear" would give no sense.

Artemia, I leave you my substitute In fair Cæsarea.

Sap. And here, as yourself, We will obey and serve her.

Dioc. Antoninus.

So you prove hers. I wish no other heir: Think on't:—be careful of your charge, Theophilus; Sapritius, be you my daughter's guardian. Your company I wish, confederate princes, In our Dalmatian wars: which finished With victory I hope, and Maximinus, Our brother and copartner in the empire, At my request won to confirm as much, The kingdoms I took from you we'll restore, And make you greater than you were before.

[Exeunt all but Antoninus and Macrinus.

Anton. Oh, I am lost for ever! lost, Macrinus! The anchor of the wretched, hope, forsakes me, And with one blast of Fortune all my light Of happiness is put out.

Mac. You are like to those That are ill only 'cause they are too well; That, surfeiting in the excess of blessings, Call their abundance want. What could you wish, That is not fallen upon you? honour, greatness, Respect, wealth, favour, the whole world for a dower; And with a princess, whose excelling form Exceeds her fortune.

Anton. Yet poison still is poison, Though drunk in gold; and all these flattering glories To me, ready to starve, a painted banquet, And no essential food. When I am scorched With fire, can flames in any other quench me? What is her love to me, greatness, or empire, That am slave to another, who alone Can give me ease or freedom? Mac. Sir, you point at

Your dotage on the scornful Dorothea: Is she, though fair, the same day to be named With best Artemia? In all their courses, Wise men propose their ends: with sweet Artemia, There comes along pleasure, security, Ushered by all that in this life is precious: With Dorothea (though her birth be noble, The daughter to a senator of Rome, By him left rich, yet with a private wealth. And far inferior to yours) arrives The emperor's frown, which, like a mortal plague, Speaks death is near; 'the princess' heavy scorn, Under which you will shrink; your father's fury, Which to resist, even pity forbids:-And but remember that she stands suspected A favourer of the Christian sect; she brings Not danger, but assured destruction with her. This truly weighed, one smile of great Artemia Is to be cherished, and preferred before All joys in Dorothea: therefore leave her.

Anton. In what thou think'st thou art most wise, th

Grossly abused, Macrinus, and most foolish. For any man to match above his rank, Is but to sell his liberty. With Artemia I still must live a servant; but enjoying Divinest Dorothea, I shall rule, Rule as becomes a husband: for the danger, Or call it, if you will, assured destruction, I slight it thus.—If, then, thou art my friend, As I dare swear thou art, and wilt not take A governor's place upon thee, be my helper.

Mac. You know I dare, and will do anything; Put me unto the test.

Anton. Go then, Macrinus,
To Dorothea; tell her I have worn,
In all the battles I have fought, her figure,

Her figure in my heart, which, like a deity,
Hath still protected me. Thou canst speak well;
And of thy choicest language spare a little,
To make her understand how much I love her,
And how I languish for her. Bear her these jewels,
Sent in the way of sacrifice, not service,
As to my goddess: all lets¹ thrown behind me,
Or fears that may deter me, say, this morning
I mean to visit her by the name of friendship:
—No words to contradict this.

Mac. I am yours:
And, if my travail this way be ill spent,
Judge not my readier will by the event.

[Exeunt,







ACT THE SECOND.

SCENE I .- A Room in DOROTHEA'S House.

Enter Spungius and Hircius.1



PUN. Turn Christian! Would he that first tempted me to have my shoes walk upon Christian soles, had turned me into a capon; for I am sure now, the stones of all my pleasure, in this fleshly life, are cut off.

Hir. So then, if any coxcomb has

a galloping desire to ride, here's a gelding, if he can but sit him.

Spun. I kick, for all that, like a horse;—look else.

Hir. But that is a kickish jade, fellow Spungius. Have not I as much cause to complain as thou hast? When I was a pagan, there was an infidel punk of mine, would have let me come upon trust for my curveting: a pox of your Christian cockatrices! they cry, like poulterers' wives, "No money, no coney."

Spun. Bacchus, the god of brewed wine and sugar, grand patron of rob-pots, upsy-freesy³ tipplers, and super-naculum ⁴ takers; this Bacchus, who is head warden

¹ See p. 308: "Your names even brand you," &c.

² Prostitutes.
³ "Upsee-freese" or "Upsee-Dutch" (both meaning "in the Dutch fashion") is an old euphemism for being tipsy.

4 "Drinking super nagulum, a devise of drinking new come out of France: which is, after a man hath turned up the bottom of the cup, to drop it on his naile, and make a pearle with that is left; which if it slide, and he cannot make it stand on, by reason ther's too much, he must drinke againe for his penance."—Pierce Pennilesse (quoted by Nares).

of Vintners'-hall, ale-conner, mayor of all victualling-houses, the sole liquid benefactor to bawdy-houses; lanceprezado² to red noses, and invincible adelantado³ over the armado of pimpled, deep-scarleted, rubified, and carbuncled faces—

Hir. What of all this?

Spun. This boon Bacchanalian skinker did I make legs to.

Hir. Scurvy ones, when thou wert drunk.

Spun. There is no danger of losing a man's ears by making these indentures; he that will not now and then be Calabingo, is worse than a Calamoothe. When I was a pagan, and kneeled to this Bacchus, I durst out-drink a lord; but your Christian lords out-bowl me. I was in hope to lead a sober life, when I was converted; but, now amongst the Christians, I can no sooner stagger out of one alehouse, but I reel into another; they have whole streets of nothing but drinking-rooms, and drabbing-chambers, jumbled together.

Hir. Bawdy Priapus, the first schoolmaster that taught butchers how to stick pricks in flesh, and make it swell, thou know'st, was the only ningle⁵ that I cared for under the moon; but, since I left him to follow a scurvy lady, what with her praying and our fasting, if now I come to a wench, and offer to use her anything hardly, (telling her, being a Christian, she must endure,) she presently handles me as if I were a clove, and cleaves me with disdain, as if I were a calf's head.

Spun. I see no remedy, fellow Hircius, but that thou and I must be half pagans, and half Christians; for we know very fools that are Christians.

Hir. Right: the quarters of Christians are good for nothing but to feed crows.

¹ Ale-conner, or ale-taster, an officer appointed in every courtleet, to look to the assize and goodness of bread, ale, and beer.— Kersey.

2 The lowest officer in a company of foot soldiers.

Lord president or deputy of a country.
 Favourite. The word is a contraction of "mine ingle."
 Mass. II.

Spun. True: Christian brokers, thou know'st, are made up of the quarters of Christians; parboil one of these rogues, and he is not meat for a dog: no, no, I am resolved to have an infidel's heart, though in show I carry a Christian's face.

Hir. Thy last shall serve my foot: so will I.

Spun. Our whimpering lady and mistress sent me with two great baskets full of beef, mutton, veal, and goose, fellow Hircius——

Hir. And woodcock, fellow Spungius.

Spun. Upon the poor lean ass-fellow, on which I ride, to all the almswomen: what think'st thou I have done with all this good cheer?

Hir. Eat it; and be choked else.

Spun. Would my ass, basket and all, were in thy maw, if I did! No, as I am a demi-pagan, I sold the victuals, and coined the money into pottle-pots of wine.

Hir. Therein thou showed'st thyself a perfect demichristian too, to let the poor beg, starve, and hang, or die of the pip. Our puling, snotty-nose lady sent me out likewise with a purse of money, to relieve and release prisoners:—did I so, think you?

Spun. Would thy ribs were turned into grates of iron then.

Hir. As I am a total pagan, I swore they should be hanged first: for, sirrah Spungius, I lay at my old ward of lechery, and cried, "A pox in your twopenny wards!" and so I took scurvy common flesh for the money.

Spun. And wisely done; for our lady, sending it to prisoners, had bestowed it out upon lousy knaves: and thou, to save that labour, cast'st it away upon rotten whores.

Hir. All my fear is of that pink-an-eye¹ jack-an-apes boy, her page.

Spun. As I am a pagan from my cod-piece downward, that white-faced monkey frights me too. I stole but a

A term of endearment. Pink-eyed means small-eyed.

dirty pudding, last day, out of an almsbasket, to give my dog when he was hungry, and the peaking chitface 1 page hit me in the teeth with it.

Hir. With the dirty pudding! so he did me once with a cow-turd, which in knavery I would have crumbed into one's porridge, who was half a pagan too. The smug dandiprat2 smells us out, whatsoever we are doing.

Spun. Does he? let him take heed I prove not his backfriend:3 I'll make him curse his smelling what I do.

Hir. 'Tis my lady spoils the boy; for he is ever at her tail, and she is never well but in his company.

Enter Angelo with a book, and a taper lighted; seeing him, they counterfeit devotion.

Ang. O! now your hearts make ladders of your eyes, In show to climb to Heaven, when your devotion Walks upon crutches. Where did you waste your time, When the religious man was on his knees, Speaking the heavenly language?

Spun. Why, fellow Angelo, we were speaking in pedlar's French, I hope.

Hir. We have not been idle, take it upon my word.

Ang. Have you the baskets emptied, which your lady Sent, from her charitable hands, to women That dwell upon her pity?

Spun. Emptied [them! yes; I'd be loth to have my belly so empty: yet, I am sure, I munched not one bit of them neither.

Ang. And went your money to the prisoners?

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Hir. Went! no; I carried it, and with these fingers paid it away.

Ang. What way? the devil's way, the way of sin, The way of hot damnation, way of lust?

1 A term of contempt. "Chitty-face" is the usual form of the word, meaning small-faced, and hence a mean, silly fellow.

Dwarf; term of contempt.

3 Secret enemy.

4 The peculiar dialect of thieves and beggars, of which Dekker

has given copious examples in The Roaring Girl.

And you, to wash away the poor man's bread In bowls of drunkenness?

Spun. Drunkenness! yes, yes, I use to be drunk; our next neighbour's man, called Christopher, has often seen me drunk, has he not?

Hir. Or me given so to the flesh: my cheeks speak my doings.

Ang. Avaunt, you thieves and hollow hypocrites! Your hearts to me lie open like black books, And there I read your doings.

Spun. And what do you read in my heart?

Hir. Or in mine? come, amiable Angelo, beat the flint of your brains.

Spun. And let's see what sparks of wit fly out to kindle your cerebrum.

Ang. Your names even brand you; you are Spungius And, like a spunge, you suck up liquorous wines, [called, Till your soul reels to hell.

Spun. To hell! can any drunkard's legs carry him so far?

Ang. For blood of grapes you sold the widows' food, And, starving them, 'tis murder; what's this but hell?—Hircius your name, and goatish is your nature; You snatch the meat out of the prisoner's mouth, To fatten harlots: is not this hell too? No angel, but the devil, waits on you.

Spun. Shall I cut his throat?

Hir. No; better burn him, for I think he is a witch:² but soothe, soothe him.

Spun. Fellow Angelo, true it is, that falling into the company of wicked he-Christians, for my part——

Hir. And she-ones, for mine,—we have them swim in shoals hard by——

Spun. We must confess, I took too much out of the pot; and he of t'other hollow commodity.

¹ The quarto has "carebruns," which may possibly be meant for a clownish pronunciation.

² See note ante, p. 81.

Hir. Yes, indeed, we laid Jill on both of us; we cozened the poor; but 'tis a common thing: many a one, that counts himself a better Christian than we two, has done it, by this light!

Spun. But pray, sweet Angelo, play not the tell-tale to my lady; and, if you take us creeping into any of these mouse-holes of sin any more, let cats flay off our skins.

Hir. And put nothing but the poisoned tails of rats into those skins.

Ang. Will you dishonour her sweet charity,
Who saved you from the tree of death and shame?

Hir. Would I were hanged, rather than thus be told of my faults!

Spun. She took us, 'tis true, from the gallows; yet I hope she will not bar yeoman sprats to have their swing.

Ang. She comes,—beware and mend.

Hir. Let's break his neck, and bid him mend.

Enter DOROTHEA.

Dor. Have you my messages, sent to the poor, Delivered with good hands, not robbing them Of any jot was theirs?

Spun. Rob them, lady! I hope neither my fellows nor I am thieves.

Hir. Delivered with good hands, madam! else let me never lick my fingers more when I eat buttered fish.

Dor. Who cheat the poor, and from them pluck their alms.

Pilfer from Heaven; and there are thunderbolts, From thence to beat them ever. Do not lie; Were you both faithful, true distributers?

Spun. Lie, madam! what grief is it to see you turn swaggerer, and give your poor-minded rascally servants the lie!

Dor. I'm glad you do not; if those wretched people Tell you they pine for want of anything, Whisper but to mine ear, and you shall furnish them.

Hir. Whisper! nay, lady, for my part I'll cry whoop.

Ang. Play no more, villains, with so good a lady;

For if you do——

Spun. Are we Christians?

Hir. The foul fiend snap all pagans for me!

Ang. Away, and, once more, mend.

Spun. 'Takes us for botchers.

Hir. A patch, a patch!1

[Exeunt Spungius and Hircius.

Dor. My book and taper.

Ang. Here, most holy mistress.

Dor. Thy voice sends forth such music, that I never Was ravished with a more celestial sound.

Were every servant in the world like thee,
So full of goodness, angels would come down
To dwell with us: thy name is Angelo,
And like that name thou art; get thee to rest,
Thy youth with too much watching is oppressed.

Ang. No, my dear lady, I could weary stars, And force the wakeful moon to lose her eyes, By my late watching, but to wait on you. When at your prayers you kneel before the altar, Methinks I'm singing with some quire in Heaven, So blest I hold me in your company: Therefore, my most loved mistress, do not bid Your boy, so serviceable, to get hence, For then you break his heart.

Dor. Be nigh me still, then:
In golden letters down I'll set that day
Which gave thee to me. Little did I hope
To meet such worlds of comfort in thyself,
This little, pretty body; when I, coming
Forth of the temple, heard my beggar-boy,
My sweet-faced, godly beggar-boy, crave an alms,
Which with glad hand I gave, with lucky hand!—

¹ This is probably meant for a pun. "Patch" was an old word of contempt.

And, when I took thee home, my most chaste bosom, Methought, was filled with no hot wanton fire, But with a holy flame, mounting since higher, On wings of cherubins, than it did before.

Ang. Proud am I, that my lady's modest eye So likes so poor a servant.

Dor. I have offered Handfuls of gold but to behold thy parents. I would leave kingdoms, were I queen of some, To dwell with thy good father; for, the son Bewitching me so deeply with his presence, He that begot him must do't ten times more. I pray thee, my sweet boy, show me thy parents; Be not ashamed.

Ang. I am not: I did never
Know who my mother was; but, by yon palace,
Filled with bright heavenly courtiers, I dare assure you,
And pawn these eyes upon it, and this hand,
My father is in Heaven; and, pretty mistress,
If your illustrious hour-glass spend his sand
No worse than yet it does, upon my life,
You and I both shall meet my father there,
And he shall bid you welcome.

Dor. A blessed day!
We all long to be there, but lose the way,

[Exeunt.



SCENE II.—A Street, near DOROTHEA'S House.

Enter Macrinus, met by Theophilus and Harpax.

Theo. The Sun, god of the day, guide thee, Macrinus! Mac. And thee, Theophilus!

Theo. Glad'st thou in such scorn?

I call my wish back.

Mac. I'm in haste.

Theo. One word,

Take the least hand of time up:-stay.

Mac. Be brief.

Theo. As thought: I prithee tell me, good Macrinus, How health and our fair princess lay together This night, for you can tell; courtiers have flies, That buzz all news unto them.

Mac. She slept but ill.

Theo. Double thy courtesy; how does Antoninus?

Mac. Ill, well, straight, crooked,—I know not how.

Theo. Once more;

—Thy head is full of windmills:—when doth the princes Fill a bed full of beauty, and bestow it On Antoninus, on the wedding-night.

Mac. I know not.

Theo. No! thou art the manuscript Where Antoninus writes down all his secrets: Honest Macrinus, tell me.

Mac. Fare you well, sir.

Exil

Harp. Honesty is some fiend, and frights him hence A many courtiers love it not.

Theo. What piece

Of this state-wheel, which winds up Antoninus, Is broke, it runs so jarringly? the man Is from himself divided. O thou, the eye By which I wonders see, tell me, my Harpax, What gad-fly tickles this Macrinus so, That, upflinging the tail, he breaks thus from me.

Harp. Oh, sir, his brain-pan is a bed of snakes, Whose stings shoot through his eye-balls, whose poists ous spawn

Ingenders such a fry of speckled villainies, That, unless charms more strong than adamant Be used, the Roman angel's wings shall melt,

Compare Two Noble Kinsmen, i. 1, 16:
"Not an angel of the air,
Bird melodious or bird fair,
Be absent hence."

And Cæsar's diadem be from his head spurned by base feet; the laurel which he wears, Returning victor, be enforced to kiss
That which it hates, the fire. And can this ram, This Antoninus-engine, being made ready
To so much mischief, keep a steady motion?—
His eyes and feet, you see, give strange assaults.

Theo. I'm turned a marble statue at thy language, Which printed is in such crabbed characters, It puzzles all my reading: what, in the name Of Pluto, now is hatching?

Harp. This Macrinus,

The line is, upon which love-errands run 'TwixtAntoninus and that ghost of women, The bloodless Dorothea; who in prayer And meditation, mocking all your gods, Drinks up her ruby colour: yet Antoninus Plays the Endymion to this pale-faced moon, Courts her, seeks to catch her eyes—

Theo. And what of this?

Harp. These are but creeping billows,
Not got to shore yet: but if Dorothea
Fall on his bosom, and be fired with love,—
Your coldest women do so,—had you ink
Brewed from the infernal Styx, not all that blackness

Can make a thing so foul as the dishonours, Disgraces, buffetings, and most base affronts Upon the bright Artemia, star o' the court, Great Cæsar's daughter.

Theo. I now conster² thee.

Harp. Nay, more; a firmament of clouds, being filled

¹ The quarto has "time," which Gifford changes to "line"—i.e. the stick of a rocket—comparing Dekker, Honest Whore: "Troth, mistress, to tell you true, the fireworks then ran from me upon lines."

² "Conster" is another form of construe; it here means to comprehend.

With Jove's artillery, shot down at once, To pash¹ your gods in pieces, cannot give, With all those thunderbolts, so deep a blow To the religion there, and pagan lore, As this; for Dorothea hates your gods, And, if she once blast Antoninus' soul, Making it foul like hers, oh! the example—

Theo. Eats through Cæsarea's heart like liquid poison. Have I invented tortures to tear Christians, To see but which, could all that feel hell's torments Have leave to stand aloof here on earth's stage, They would be mad till they again descended, Holding the pains most horrid of such souls May-games to those of mine; has this my hand Set down a Christian's execution

In such dire postures, that the very hangman Fell at my foot dead, hearing but their figures; And shall Macrinus and his fellow-masquer Strangle me in a dance?

Harp. No:—on; I do hug thee,For drilling thy quick brains in this rich plotOf tortures 'gainst these Christians: on; I hug thee!Theo. Both hug and holy me: to this Dorothea,

Fly thou and I in thunder.

Harp. Not for kingdoms
Piled upon kingdoms: there's a villain page
Waits on her, whom I would not for the world
Hold traffic with; I do so hate his sight,
That, should I look on him, I must sink down,

Theo. I will not lose thee then, her to confound: None but this head with glories shall be crowned.

Harp. Oh! mine own as I would wish thee!

[Excunt.

3 Strike violently.



SCENE III.—A Room in DOROTHEA'S House.

Enter DOROTHEA, MACRINUS, and ANGELO.

Dor. My trusty Angelo, with that curious' eye Of thine, which ever waits upon my business, I prithee watch those my still-negligent servants, That they perform my will, in what's enjoined them To the good of others; else will you find them flies, Not lying still, yet in them no good lies: Be careful, dear boy.

Ang. Yes, my sweetest mistress.

Exit.

Dor. Now, sir, you may go on.

Mac. I then must study

A new arithmetic, to sum up the virtues
Which Antoninus gracefully become.
There is in him so much man, so much goodness,
So much of honour, and of all things else,
Which make our being excellent, that from his store
He can enough lend others; yet, much taken from him,
The want shall be as little as when seas
Lend from their bounty, to fill up the poorness
Of needy rivers.

Dor. Sir, he is more indebted

To you for praise, than you to him that owes it.

Mac. If queens, viewing his presents paid to the white-

Of your chaste hand alone, should be ambitious
But to be parted in their numerous shares;
This he counts nothing: could you see main armies
Make battles in the quarrel of his valour,
That 'tis the best, the truest; this were nothing:
The greatness of his state, his father's voice,
And arm, awing ² Cæsarea, he ne'er boasts of;
The sunbeams which the emperor throws upon him

¹ Careful.

The quarto has "owing," which might of course mean "owning," but the expression would be a singular one.

Shine there but as in water, and gild him Not with one spot of pride; no, dearest beauty, All these, heaped up together in one scale, Cannot weigh down the love he bears to you Being put into the other.

Dor. Could gold buy you

To speak thus for your friend, you, sir, are worthy
Of more than I will number; and this your language
Hath power to win upon another woman,
'Top of whose heart the feathers of this world
Are gaily stuck: but all which first you named,
And now this last, his love, to me are nothing.

Mac. You make me a sad messenger;—but himself

Enter Antoninus.

Being come in person, shall, I hope, hear from you Music more pleasing.

Anton. Has your ear, Macrinus, Heard none, then?

Mac. None I like.

Anton. But can there be
In such a noble casket, wherein lie
Beauty and chastity in their full perfections,
A rocky heart, killing with cruelty
A life that's prostrated beneath your feet?

Dor. I am guilty of a shame I yet ne'er knew,

Thus to hold parley with you;—pray, sir, pardon. [Going. Anton. Good sweetness, you now have it, and shall go:

Be but so merciful before your wounding me

Be but so merciful, before your wounding me With such a mortal weapon as "farewell," To let me murmur to your virgin ear What I was loth to lay on any tongue But this mine own.

Dor. If one immodest accent Fly out, I hate you everlastingly.

Anton. My true love dares not do it.

Mac. Hermes inspire thee!

Enter above, Artemia, Sapritius, Theophilus, Spungius, and Hircius.

Spun. See you, do you see?—Our work is done; the fish you angle for is nibbling at the hook, and therefore untruss the cod-piece-point of our reward, no matter if the breeches of conscience fall about our heels.

Theo. The gold you earn is here; dam up your mouths, And no words of it.

Hir. No; nor no words from you of too much damning neither. I know women sell themselves daily, and are hackneyed out for silver: why may not we, then, betray a scurvy mistress for gold?

Spun. She saved us from the gallows, and, only to keep one proverb from breaking his neck, we'll hang her.

Theo. 'Tis well done; go, go, you're my fine white boys.'

Spun. If your red boys, 'tis well known more ill-favoured faces than ours are painted.

Sap. Those fellows trouble us.

Theo. Away, away!

Hir. I to my sweet placket.

Spun. And I to my full pot.

[Exeunt Hircius and Spungius.

Anton. Come, let me tune you:—glaze not thus your With self-love of a vowed virginity; [eyes

Make every man your glass; you see our sex

Do never murder propagation;

We all desire your sweet society,

And, if you bar me from it, you do kill me,

And of my blood are guilty.

Artem. O base villain!

Sap. Bridle your rage, sweet princess.

Anton. Could not my fortunes,

Reared higher far than yours, be worthy of you, Methinks my dear affection makes you mine.

A term of endearment.

Dor. Sir, for your fortunes, were they mines of gold, He that I love is richer; and for worth, You are to him lower than any slave Is to a monarch.

Sap. So insolent, base Christian!

Dor. Can I, with wearing out my knees before him,

Get you but be his servant, you shall boast You're equal to a king.

Sap. Confusion on thee,

For playing thus the lying sorceress!

Anton. Your mocks are great ones; none beneath the sun

Will I be servant to.—On my knees I beg it, Pity me, wondrous maid.

Sap. I curse thy baseness.

Theo. Listen to more.

Dor. O, kneel not, sir, to me.

Anton. This knee is emblem of an humbled heart:

That heart which tortured is with your disdain, Justly for scorning others, even this heart,

To which for pity such a princess sues

As in her hand offers me all the world, Great Cæsar's daughter.

Artem. Slave, thou liest.

Anton. Yet this

Is adamant to her, that melts to you In drops of blood.

Theo. A very dog!

Anton. Perhaps

'Tis my religion makes you knit the brow; Yet be you mine, and ever be your own:

I ne'er will screw your conscience from that Power On which you Christians lean.

Sap. I can no longer

Fret out my life with weeping at thee, villain.

[Aloud.] Sirrah!

Would, when I got thee, the high Thunderer's hand Had struck thee in the womb!

Mac. We are betrayed.

Artem. Is that your idol, traitor, which thou kneel'st to, Trampling upon my beauty?

Theo. Sirrah, bandog!

Wilt thou in pieces tear our Jupiter
For her? our Mars for her? our Sol for her?—
A whore! a hell-hound! In this globe of brains,

Where a whole world of tortures for such furies Have fought, as in a chaos, which should exceed, These nails shall grubbing lie from skull to skull, To find one horrider than all, for you,

You three!

Artem. Threaten not, but strike: quick vengeance flies Into thy bosom; caitiff! here all love dies.

[Exeunt above.

Anton. O! I am thunderstuck! We are both o'er-whelmed—

Mac. With one high-raging billow.

Dor. You a soldier,

And sink beneath the violence of a woman!

Anton. A woman! a wronged princess. From such a star Blazing with fires of hate, what can be looked for, But tragical events? my life is now The subject of her tyranny.

Dor. That fear is base,

Of death, when that death doth but life displace Out of her house of earth; you only dread The stroke, and not what follows when you're dead; There's the great fear, indeed: come, let your eyes Dwell where mine do, you'll scorn their tyrannies.

Re-enter below, ARTEMIA, SAPRITIUS, THEOPHILUS, a guard; ANGELO comes and stands close by DOROTHEA.

Artem. My father's nerves put vigour in mine arm,

¹ The quarto has "thunder."

And I his strength must use. Because I once
Shed beams of favour on thee, and, with the lion,
Played with thee gently, when thou struck'st my heart,
I'll not insult on a base, humbled prey,
By lingering out thy terrors; but, with one frown,
Kill thee:—hence with them to execution.
Seize him; but let even death itself be weary
In torturing her. I'll change those smiles to shrieks;
Give the fool what she's proud of, martyrdom:
In pieces rack that bawd too.

[Points to Macrinus.
Sav. Albeit the reverence

I owe our gods and you are, in my bosom,
Torrents so strong that pity quite lies drowned
From saving this young man, yet, when I see
What face death gives him, and that a thing within me
Says 'tis my son, I am forced to be a man,
And grow fond of his life, which thus I beg.

Artem. And I deny.

Anton. Sir, you dishonour me,
To sue for that which I disclaim to have.
I shall more glory in my sufferings gain
Than you in giving judgment, since I offer
My blood up to your anger; nor do I kneel
To keep a wretched life of mine from ruin:
Preserve this temple, builded fair as yours is,
And Cæsar never went in greater triumph
Than I shall to the scaffold.

Artem. Are you so brave, sir? Set forward to his triumph, and let those two Go cursing along with him.

Dor. No, but pitying,
For my part, I, that you lose ten times more
By torturing me, than I that dare your tortures:
Through all the army of my sins, I have even
Laboured to break, and cope with death to the face.
The visage of a hangman frights not me;
The sight of whips, racks, gibbets, axes, fires,

Are scaffoldings by which my soul climbs up To an eternal habitation.

Theo. Cæsar's imperial daughter! hear me speak. Let not this Christian thing, in this her pageantry Of proud deriding both our gods and Cæsar, Build to herself a kingdom in her death, Going laughing from us: no; her bitterest torment Shall be, to feel her constancy beaten down; The bravery of her resolution lie Battered, by the argument, into such pieces, That she again shall, on her belly, creep To kiss the pavements of our paynim gods.

Artem. How to be done?

Theo. I'll send my daughters to her, And they shall turn her rocky faith to wax; Else spit at me, let me be made your slave, And meet no Roman's but a villain's grave.

Artem. Thy prisoner let her be, then; and, Sapritius, Your son and that be yours: death shall be sent To him that suffers them, by voice or letters, To greet each other. Rifle her estate; Christians to beggary brought grow desperate.

Dor. Still on the bread of poverty let me feed.

Ang. O! my admired mistress, quench not out The holy fires within you, though temptations Shower down upon you: clasp thine armour on, Fight well, and thou shalt see, after these wars, Thy head wear sunbeams, and thy feet touch stars.

Exeunt all but ANGELO.

Enter HIRCIUS and SPUNGIUS.

Hir. How now, Angelo; how is it, how is it? What thread spins that whore Fortune upon her wheel now?

Spun. Comesta, comesta poor knave?

Hir. Com a porte vou, com a porte vou, my petite garsoone?1

¹ I have printed this queer stuff as it appears in the original quarto. I suppose the first line is the Italian "Come sta"; to which Mass, II,

Spun. Me partha, wee comrade, my half-inch of man's flesh, how run the dice of this cheating world, ha?

Ang. Too well on your sides; you are hid in gold, O'er head and ears.

Hir. We thank our fates, the sign of the gingle-boys hangs at the doors of our pockets.

Spun. Who would think that we, coming forth of the arse, as it were, or fag-end of the world, should yet see the golden age, when so little silver is stirring?

Hir. Nay, who can say any citizen is an ass, for lading his own back with money till his soul cracks again, only to leave his son like a gilded coxcomb behind him? Will not any fool take me for a wise man now, seeing me draw out of the pit of my treasury this little god with his belly full of gold?

Spun. And this, full of the same meat, out of my ambry?

Ang. That gold will melt to poison.

Spun. Poison! would it would! whole pints for healths should down my throat.

Hir. Gold, poison! there is never a she-thrasher in Cæsarea, that lives on the flail of money, will call it so.

Ang. Like slaves you sold your souls for golden dross, Bewitching her to death, who stepped between You and the gallows.

Spun. It was an easy matter to save us, she being so well backed.

Hir. The gallows and we fell out: so she did but part us.

Hircius replies "Comment vous portez-vous, comment vous portez-vous, mon petit garçon?" "Me partha" presents more difficulty—a difficulty which Gifford cuts by reading "My pretty wee comrade," &c. Mr. W. G. Stone suggests that Dekker may have written (or intended) "Mi parli! Wee comrade," &c. (i.e. let him speak to me). But may not Dekker have written "Mi parla," which, though not correct Italian for "speak to me," is sufficiently near for a person of the abilities of Spungius?

1 Pantry.

Ang. The misery of that mistress is mine own; She beggared, I left wretched.

Hir. I can but let my nose drop in sorrow, with wet eyes for her.

Spun. The petticoat of her estate is unlaced, I confess. Hir. Yes, and the smock of her charity is now all to pieces.

Ang. For love you bear to her, for some good turns Done you by me, give me one piece of silver.

Hir. How! a piece of silver! if thou wert an angel of gold, I would not put thee into white money unless I weighed thee; and I weigh thee not a rush.

Spun. A piece of silver! I never had but two calves in my life, and those my mother left me; I will rather part from the fat of them than from a mustard-token's worth of argent.

Hir. And so, sweet nit, we crawl from thee.

Spun. Adieu, demi-dandiprat, adieu!

Ang. Stay,—one word yet; you now are full of gold.

Hir. I would be sorry my dog were so full of the pox.

Spun. Or any sow of mine of the meazles either.

Ang. Go, go! you're beggars both; you are not worth That leather on your feet.

Hir. Away, away, boy!

Spun. Page, you do nothing but set patches on the soles of your jests.

Ang. I am glad I tried your love, which, see! I want not,

So long as this is full.

Both. And so long as this, so long as this.

Hir. Spungius, you are a pickpocket.

Spun. Hircius, thou hast nimmed.² "So long as!"—not so much money is left as will buy a louse.

Hir. Thou art a thief, and thou liest in that gut through which thy wine runs, if thou deniest it.

¹ See note ante, p. 307.

² See note ante, p. 268.

Spun. Thou liest deeper than the bottom of mine enraged pocket, if thou affrontest it.

Ang. No blows, no bitter language;—all your gold gone!

Spun. Can the devil creep into one's breeches?

Hir. Yes, if his horns once get into the cod-piece.

Ang. Come, sigh not; I so little am in love With that whose loss kills you, that, see! 'tis yours, All yours: divide the heap in equal share, So you will go along with me to prison, And in our mistress' sorrows bear a part: Say, will you?

Both. Will we!

Spun. If she were going to hanging, no gallows should part us.

Hir. Let us both be turned into a rope of onions, if we do not.

Ang. Follow me, then; repair your bad deeds past; Happy are men, when their best days are last!

Spun. True, master Angelo; pray, sir, lead the way.

[Exit Angelo.

Hir. Let him lead that way, but follow thou me this way.

Spun. I live in a gaol!

Hir. Away, and shift for ourselves. She'll do well enough there; for prisoners are more hungry after mutton than catchpoles after prisoners.

Spun. Let her starve then, if a whole gaol will not fill her belly. [Exeunt.

1 In the quarto the word "not" is omitted, probably undesignedly, as the word "do" ends a full line, and has no point after it.





ACT THE THIRD.

SCENE I.—A Room in DOROTHEA'S House.

Enter Sapritius, Theophilus, Priest, Calista, and Christeta.

AP. Sick to the death, I fear.

Theo. I meet your sorrow,
With my true feeling of it.

Sap. She's a witch,
A sorceress, Theophilus; my son
Is charmed by her enticing eyes; and

An image made of wax, her beams of beauty

Melt him to nothing: all my hopes in him,

And all his gotten honours, find their grave

In his strange dotage on her. Would, when first

He saw and loved her, that the earth had opened,

And swallowed both alive!

Theo. There's hope left yet.

Sap. Not any: though the princess were appeased, All title in her love surrendered up,
Yet this coy Christian is so transported
With her religion, that unless my son
(But let him perish first!) drink the same potion,
And be of her belief, she'll not vouchsafe
To be his lawful wife.

Priest. But, once removed From her opinion, as I rest assured The reasons of these holy maids will win her,

You'll find her tractable to anything, For your content or his.

Theo. If she refuse it,
The Stygian damps, breeding infectious airs,
The mandrake's shrieks,¹ the basilisk's killing eye,
The dreadful lightning that does crush the bones
And never singe the skin, shall not appear
Less fatal to her than my zeal made hot
With love unto my gods. I have deferred it,
In hopes to draw back this apostata,²
Which will be greater honour than her death,
Unto her father's faith; and, to that end,
Have brought my daughters hither.

Cal. And we doubt not To do what you desire.

Sap. Let her be sent for.

Prosper in your good work; and were I not To attend the princess, I would see and hear How you succeed.

Theo. I am commanded too, I'll bear you company.

Sap. Give them your ring, To lead her as in triumph, if they win her, Before her highness.

Exit.

Theo. Spare no promises, Persuasions, or threats, I do conjure you: If you prevail, 'tis the most glorious work You ever undertook.

Enter DOROTHEA and ANGELO.

Priest. She comes. Theo. We leave you;

1 There was a prevalent superstition that when this plant was torn from the ground it uttered groans or shrieks, and drove those who heard them mad. See Romeo and Juliet, iv. 3:

"And shrieks like mandrakes torn out of the earth, That living mortals hearing them run mad."

² This was the earlier form of the word.

Be constant, and be careful.

Exeunt THEOPHILUS and Priest.

Cal. We are sorry

To meet you under guard.

Dor. But I more grieved

You are at liberty. So well I love you

That I could wish, for such a cause as mine,

You were my fellow-prisoners. Prithee, Angelo,

Reach us some chairs. Please you sit-

Cal. We thank you:

Our visit is for love, love to your safety.

Chris. Our conference must be private; pray you, therefore.

Command your boy to leave us.

Dor. You may trust him

With any secret that concerns my life;

Falsehood and he are strangers: had you, ladies,

Been blessed with such a servant, you had never

Forsook that way, your journey even half ended,

That leads to joys eternal. In the place Of loose lascivious mirth, he would have stirred you

To holy meditations; and so far

He is from flattery that he would have told you,

Your pride being at the height, how miserable

And wretched things you were, that, for an hour

Of pleasure here, have made a desperate sale Of all your right in happiness hereafter.

He must not leave me; without him I fall:

In this life he's my servant, in the other

A wished companion.

Ang. 'Tis not in the devil,

Nor all his wicked arts, to shake such goodness.

Dor. But you were speaking, lady.

Cal. As a friend

And lover of your safety, and I pray you So to receive it; and, if you remember

How near in love our parents were, that we,

Even from the cradle, were brought up together, Our amity increasing with our years, We cannot stand suspected.

Dor. To the purpose.

Cal. We come, then, as good angels, Dorothea, To make you happy; and the means so easy That, be not you an enemy to yourself, Already you enjoy it.

Chris. Look on us, Ruined as you are, once, and brought unto it By your persuasion.

Cal. But what followed, lady?

Leaving those blessings which our gods gave freely,
And showered upon us with a prodigal hand,—
As to be noble born, youth, beauty, wealth,
And the free use of these without control,
Check, curb, or stop, such is our law's indulgence!—
All happiness forsook us; bonds and fetters,
For amorous twines; the rack and hangman's whips,
In place of choice delights; our parents' curses
Instead of blessings; scorn, neglect, contempt,
Fell thick upon us.

Chris. This considered wisely, We made a fair retreat; and, reconciled To our forsaken gods, we live again In all prosperity.

Cal. By our example,
Bequeathing misery to such as love it,
Learn to be happy. The Christian yoke's too heavy
For such a dainty neck; it was framed rather
To be the shrine of Venus, or a pillar,
More precious than crystal, to support
Our Cupid's image: our religion, lady,
Is but a varied pleasure; yours a toil
Slaves would shrink under.

Dor. Have you not cloven feet; are you not devils? Dare any say so much, or dare I hear it,

Without a virtuous and religious anger?

Now to put on a virgin modesty,
Or maiden silence, when His power is questioned
That is omnipotent, were a greater crime
Than in a bad cause to be impudent.
Your gods! your temples! brothel-houses rather,
Or wicked actions of the worst of men,
Pursued and practised. Your religious rites!
Oh! call them rather juggling mysteries,
The baits and nets of hell: your souls the prey
For which the devil angles; your false pleasures
A steep descent, by which you headlong fall
Into eternal torments.

Cal. Do not tempt Our powerful gods.

Dor. Which of your powerful gods?
Your gold, your silver, brass, or wooden ones,
That can nor do me hurt, nor protect you?
Most pitied women! will you sacrifice
To such,—or call them gods or goddesses,
Your parents would disdain to be the same,
Or you yourselves? O blinded ignorance!
Tell me, Calista, by the truth, I charge you,
Or anything you hold more dear, would you
To have him deified to posterity,
Desire your father an adulterer,
A ravisher, almost a parricide,
A vile incestuous wretch?
Cal. That, piety

And duty answer for me.

Dor. Or you, Christeta,
To be hereafter registered a goddess,
Give your chaste body up to the embraces
Of goatish lust? have it writ on your forehead,
"This is the common whore, the prostitute,
The mistress in the art of wantonness,
Knows every trick and labyrinth of desires

That are immodest?"

Chris. You judge better of me, Or my affection is ill placed on you: Shall I turn strumpet?

Dor. No, I think you would not. Yet Venus, whom you worship, was a whore; Flora, the foundress of the public stews, And has, for that, her sacrifice; your great god, Your Jupiter, a loose adulterer, Incestuous with his sister: read but those That have canonized them, you'll find them worse Than, in chaste language, I can speak them to you. Are they immortal, then, that did partake Of human weakness, and had ample share In men's most base affections: subject to Unchaste loves, anger, bondage, wounds, as men are? Here, Jupiter, to serve his lust, turned bull, The ship, indeed, in which he stole Europa: Neptune, for gain, builds up the walls of Troy As a day-labourer; Apollo keeps Admetus' sheep for bread: the Lemnian smith Sweats at the forge for hire; Prometheus here, With his still-growing liver, feeds the vulture: Saturn bound fast in hell with adamant chains: And thousands more, on whom abused error Bestows a deity. Will you, then, dear sisters, For I would have you such, pay your devotions To things of less power than yourselves?

Cal. We worship Their good deeds in their images.

Dor. By whom fashioned?
By sinful men. I'll tell you a short tale,
Nor can you but confess it was 2 a true one:
A king of Egypt, being to erect
The image of Osiris, whom they honour,

¹ Gifford reads "shape."

² Gifford reads "is," perhaps rightly.

Took from the matrons' neck the richest jewels, And purest gold, as the materials, To finish up his work; which perfected, With all solemnity he set it up. To be adored, and served himself his idol: Desiring it to give him victory Against his enemies: but, being overthrown, Enraged against his god, (these are fine gods, Subject to human fury!) he took down The senseless thing, and, melting it again, He made a bason, in which eunuchs washed His concubine's feet; and for this sordid use Some months it served: his mistress proving false,— As most indeed do so,—and grace concluded Between him and the priests, of the same bason He made his god again! Think, think of this, And then consider, if all worldly honours. Or pleasures that do leave sharp stings behind them, Have power to win such as have reasonable souls, To put their trust in dross.

Cal. Oh, that I had been born Without a father!

Christ. Piety to him Hath ruined us for ever.

Dor. Think not so;

You may repair all yet: the attribute
That speaks His Godhead most, is merciful:
Revenge is proper to the fiends you worship,
Yet cannot strike without His leave.—You weep,—
Oh, 'tis a heavenly shower! celestial balm
To cure your wounded conscience! let it fall,
Fall thick upon it; and when that is spent,
I'll help it with another of my tears;
And, may your true repentance prove the child
Of my true sorrow, never mother had

A birth so happy!

Cal. We are caught ourselves,

That came to take you; and, assured of conquest, We are your captives.

Dor. And in that you triumph:
Your victory had been eternal loss,
And this your loss immortal gain. Fix here,
And you shall feel yourselves inwardly armed
'Gainst tortures, death, and hell:—but, take heed, sisters,
That, or through weakness, threats, or mild persuasions,
Though of a father, you fall not into

A second and a worse apostasy.

Cal. Never, oh never! steeled by your example, We dare the worst of tyranny.

Chris. Here's our warrant; You shall along and witness it.

Dor. Be confirmed then;

And rest assured, the more you suffer here, The more your glory, you to Heaven more dear.

Exeunt.



SCENE II.—The Governor's Palace.

Enter Artemia, Sapritius, Theophilus, and Harpax.

Artem. Sapritius, though your son deserve no pity, We grieve¹ his sickness: his contempt of us, We cast behind us, and look back upon His service done to Cæsar, that weighs down Our just displeasure. If his malady Have growth from his restraint, or that you think His liberty can cure him, let him have it: Say, we forgive him freely.

Sap. Your grace binds us, Ever your humblest vassals. Artem. Use all means

¹ Compare Richard II., ii. 2, 37:
"Or something hath the nothing that I grieve."

For his recovery; though yet I love him, I will not force affection. If the Christian, Whose beauty hath out-rivalled mine, be won To be of our belief, let him enjoy her; That all may know, when the cause wills, I can Command my own desires.

Theo. Be happy then,

My Lord Sapritius: I am confident, Such eloquence and sweet persuasion dwells Upon my daughters' tongues, that they will work her To anything they please.

Sap. I wish they may! Yet 'tis no easy task to undertake, To alter a perverse and obstinate woman.

[A shout within: loud music.

Artem. What means this shout?
Sap. 'Tis seconded with music,
Triumphant music.—Ha!

Enter SEMPRONIUS.

Semp. My lord, your daughters, The pillars of our faith, having converted, For so report gives out, the Christian lady, The image of great Jupiter borne before them, Sue for access.

Theo. My soul divined as much.

Blest be the time when first they saw this light!

Their mother, when she bore them to support

My feeble age, filled not my longing heart

With so much joy as they in this good work

Have thrown upon me.

Enter Priest, with the image of Jupiter, incense and censers; followed by Calista and Christeta leading Dorothea.

Welcome, oh, thrice welcome, Daughters, both of my body and my mind!

Let me embrace in you my bliss, my comfort; And, Dorothea, now more welcome too Than if you never had fallen off! I am ravished With the excess of joy:—speak, happy daughters, The blest event.

Cal. We never gained so much By any undertaking.

Theo. O my dear girl,

Our gods reward thee!

Dor. Nor was ever time.

On my part, better spent.

Chris. We are all now

Of one opinion.

Theo. My best Christeta! Madam, if ever you did grace to worth, Vouchsafe your princely hands.

Artem. Most willingly—

Do you refuse it?

Cal. Let us first deserve it.

My own child still! Here set our god; prepare The incense quickly. Come, fair Dorothea,

I will myself support you;—now kneel down,

And pay your vows to Jupiter.

Dor. I shall do it

Better by their example.

Theo. They shall guide you;

They are familiar with the sacrifice.

Forward, my twins of comfort, and, to teach her,

Make a joint offering.

They both spit at the image. Chris. Thus—— Cal. And thus ___ [They throw it down and spurn it.

Harp. Profane,

And impious! stand you now like a statue?

Are you the champion of the gods? where is Your holy zeal, your anger?

Theo. I am blasted:

And, as my feet were rooted here, I find

I have no motion; I would I had no sight too! Or, if my eyes can serve to any use, Give me, thou injured Power! a sea of tears, To expiate this madness in my daughters; For, being themselves, they would have trembled at So blasphemous a deed in any other:—
For my sake, hold awhile thy dreadful thunder, And give me patience to demand a reason For this accursed act.

Dor. 'Twas bravely done.

Theo. Peace, damned enchantress, peace!—I should look on you

With eyes made red with fury, and my hand,
That shakes with rage, should much outstrip my tongue,
And seal my vengeance on your hearts;—but nature,
To you that have fallen once, bids me again
To be a father. Oh! how durst you tempt
The anger of great Jove?

Dor. Alack, poor Jove!

He is no swaggerer! how smug he stands!

He'll take a kick, or anything.

Sap. Stop her mouth.

Dor. It is the patient'st godling! do not fear him; He would not hurt the thief that stole away
Two of his golden locks; indeed he could not:
And still 'tis the same quiet thing.

Theo. Blasphemer!

Ingenious cruelty shall punish this:
Thou art past hope. But for you yet, dear daughters,
Again bewitched, the dew of mild forgiveness
May gently fall, provided you deserve it,
With true contrition: be yourselves again;
Sue to the offended deity.

Chris. Not to be The mistress of the earth.

¹ The quarto has "ancientst." The reading in the text was first printed by Gifford, at the recommendation of Monck Mason.

Cal. I will not offer

A grain of incense to it, much less kneel, Nor look on it but with contempt and scorn, To have a thousand years conferred upon me Of worldly blessings. We profess ourselves To be, like Dorothea, Christians; And owe her! for that happiness.

Theo. My ears

Receive, in hearing this, all deadly charms, Powerful to make man wretched.

Artem. Are these they

You bragged could convert others!

Sap. That want strength

To stand, themselves!

Harp. Your honour is engaged, The credit of your cause depends upon it: Something you must do suddenly.

Theo. And I will.

Harp. They merit death; but, falling by your hand, 'Twill be recorded for a just revenge, And holy fury in you.

Theo. Do not blow

The furnace of a wrath thrice hot already;
Ætna is in my breast, wildfire burns here,
Which only blood must quench. Incensèd Power!
Which from my infancy I have adored,
Look down with favourable beams upon
The sacrifice, though not allowed thy priest,
Which I will offer to thee; and be pleased,
My fiery zeal inciting me to act it,
To call that justice others may style murder.
Come, you accursed, thus by the hair I drag you
Before this holy altar; thus look on you,
Less pitiful than tigers to their prey:
And thus, with mine own hand, I take that life
Which I gave to you.

[Kills them.

i.e. Are indebted to her.

Dor. O most cruel butcher!

Theo. My anger ends not here. Hell's dreadful porter, Receive into thy ever-open gates
Their damned souls, and let the Furies' whips
On them alone be wasted! and, when death
Closes these eyes, 'twill be Elysium to me
To hear their shrieks and howlings. Make me, Pluto,
Thy instrument to furnish thee with souls
Of this accursed sect; nor let me fall,
Till my fell vengeance hath consumed them all.

[Exit, with HARPAX hugging him.

Artem. 'Tis a brave zeal.

Enter Angelo, smiling.

Dor. Oh, call him back again, Call back your hangman! here's one prisoner left To be the subject of his knife.

Artem. Not so;

We are not so near reconciled unto thee; Thou shalt not perish such an easy way. Be she your charge, Sapritius, now; and suffer None to come near her, till we have found out Some torments worthy of her.

Ang. Courage, mistress;
These martyrs but prepare your glorious fate;
You shall exceed them, and not imitate.

[Exeunt.



SCENE III .- A Room in DOROTHEA'S House.

Enter Spungius and Hircius, ragged, at opposite doors.

Hir. Spungius!

Spun. My fine rogue, how is it? how goes this tattered world?

Hir. Hast any money?

Spun. Money! no. The tavern ivy clings about my money, and kills it. Hast thou any money?

Mass. II.

Hir. No. My money is a mad bull; and finding any gap opened, away it runs.

Spun. I see then a tavern and a bawdy-house have faces much alike; the one has red grates next the door, the other has peeping-holes within doors; the tavern hath evermore a bush, the bawdy-house sometimes neither hedge nor bush. From a tavern a man comes reeling; from a bawdy-house, not able to stand. In the tavern you are cozened with paltry wine; in a bawdy-house, by a painted whore: money may have wine, and a whore will have money; but neither can you cry "Drawer, you rogue!" or, "Keep door, rotten bawd!" without a silver whistle. We are justly plagued, therefore, for running from our mistress.

Hir. Thou didst; I did not: yet I had run too, but that one gave me turpentine pills, and that stayed my running.

Spun. Well! the thread of my life is drawn through the needle of necessity, whose eye, looking upon my lousy breeches, cries out it cannot mend them; which so pricks the linings of my body, (and those are heart, lights, lungs, guts, and midriff,) that I beg on my knees to have Atropos, the tailor to the Destinies, to take her shears, and cut my thread in two; or to heat the iron goose of mortality, and so press me to death.

Hir. Sure thy father was some botcher, and thy hungry tongue bit off these shreds of complaints, to patch up the elbows of thy nitty¹ eloquence.

Spun. And what was thy father?

Hir. A low-minded cobbler, a cobbler whose zeal set many a woman upright; the remembrance of whose awl (I now having nothing) thrusts such scurvy stitches into my soul, that the heel of my happiness has gone awry.

Spun. Pity that e'er thou trod'st thy shoe awry.

Hir. Long I cannot last; for all sowterly wax of

¹ Filthy.

² Sowtér, an obsolete word for a shoe-maker or cobbler.— Boyer, Fr. Dict.

comfort melting away, and misery taking the length of my foot, it boots not me to sue for life, when all my hopes are seam-rent, and go wet-shod.

Spun. This shows thou art a cobbler's son, by going through-stitch: O Hircius, would thou and I were so happy to be cobblers!

Hir. So would I; for both of us being now weary of our lives, should then be sure of shoemakers' ends.

Spun. I see the beginning of my end, for I am almost starved.

Hir. So am not I; but I am more than famished.

Spun. All the members in my body are in a rebellion one against another.

Hir. So are mine; and nothing but a cook, being a constable, can appease them, presenting to my nose, instead of his painted staff, a spit full of roast meat.

Spun. But, in this rebellion, what uproars do they make! my belly cries to my mouth, "Why dost not gape and feed me?"

Hir. And my mouth sets out a throat to my hand, "Why dost not thou lift up meat, and cram my chops with it?"

Spun. Then my hand hath a fling at mine eyes, because they look not out, and shark for victuals.

Hir. Which mine eyes seeing, full of tears, cry aloud, and curse my feet, for not ambling up and down to feed colon: 1 sithence, if good meat be in any place, 'tis known my feet can smell.

Spun. But then my feet, like lazy rogues, lie still, and had rather do nothing than run to and fro to purchase anything.

Hir. Why, among so many millions of people, should thou and I only be miserable tatterdemallions, ragamuffins, and lousy desperates?

1 The largest part of the intestinal canal, and hence, metaphorically, hungar.

Spun. Thou art a mere I-am-an-o, I-am-an-as: consider the whole world, and 'tis as we are.

Hir. Lousy, beggarly! thou whoreson assascetida?

Spun. Worse; all tottering, all out of frame, thou fooliamini!

Hir. As how, arsenic? come, make the world smart.

Spun. Old honour goes on crutches, beggary rides caroched; honest men make feasts, knaves sit at tables, cowards are lapped in velvet, soldiers (as we) in rags; beauty turns whore, whore bawd, and both die of the pox: why, then, when all the world stumbles, should thou and I walk upright?

Hir. Stop, look! who's yonder?

Enter ANGELO.

Spun. Fellow Angelo! how does my little man? well?

Ang. Yes; and would you did so! Where are your clothes?

Hir. Clothes! You see every woman almost go in her loose gown, and why should not we have our clothes loose?

Spun. Would they were loose!

Ang. Why, where are they?

Spun. Where many a velvet cloak, I warrant, at this hour, keeps them company; they are pawned to a broker.

Ang. Why pawned? where's all the gold I left with you?

Hir. The gold! we put that into a scrivener's hands, and he has cozened us.

Spun. And therefore, I prithee, Angelo, if thou hast another purse, let it be confiscate, and brought to devastation.

Ang. Are you made all of lies? I know which way Your guilt-winged 2 pieces flew. I will no more

¹ i.e. In a coach.

² "Guilt" is spelt "gilt" in the quarto. There is very likely a pun on the two words, but the former is the more emphatically meant.

Be mocked by you: be sorry for your riots, Tame your wild flesh by labour; eat the bread Got with hard hands; let sorrow be your whip, To draw drops of repentance from your heart: When I read this amendment in your eves.

You shall not want; till then, my pity dies.

[Exit.

Soun. Is it not a shame, that this scurvy puerilis should give us lessons?

Hir. I have dwelt, thou know'st, a long time in the suburbs of the conscience, and they are ever bawdy; but now my heart shall take a house within the walls of honesty,

Enter HARPAX behind.

Spun. O you drawers of wine, draw me no more to the bar of beggary; the sound of "Score a pottle of sack" is worse than the noise of a scolding oyster-wench, or two cats incorporating.

Harp. This must not be. I do not like when conscience

Thaws; keep her frozen still. [Comes forward.] How now, my masters!

Dejected? drooping? drowned in tears? clothes torn? Lean, and ill coloured? sighing? what's the whirlwind

Which raiseth all these mischiefs? I have seen you Drawn better on't. O! but a spirit told me You both would come to this, when in you thrust Yourselves into the service of that lady. Who shortly now must die. Where's now her praying? What good got you by wearing out your feet, To run on scurvy errands to the poor, And to bear money to a sort1 of rogues And lousy prisoners?

Hir. Pox on them! I never prospered since I did it. Spun. Had I been a pagan still, I could not have spit white for want of drink; but come to any vintner now, and bid him trust me, because I turned Christian, and he cries, Puh!

Harp. You're rightly served; before that peevish 1 lady Had to do with you, women, wine, and money

Flowed in abundance with you, did it not?

Hir, Oh, those days! those days!

Harp. Beat not your breasts, tear not your hair in madness;

Those days shall come again, be ruled by me; And better, mark me, better.

Spun. I have seen you, sir, as I take it, an attendant on the Lord Theophilus.

Harp. Yes, yes; in show his servant: but—hark, hither!—

Take heed nobody listens.

Spun. Not a mouse stirs.

Harp. I am a prince disguised.

Hir. Disguised! how? drunk?

Harp. Yes, my fine boy! I'll drink too, and be drunk; I am a prince, and any man by me,

Let him but keep my rules, shall soon grow rich,

Exceeding rich, most infinitely rich:

He that shall serve me is not starved from pleasures As other poor knaves are; no, take their fill,

Spun. But that, sir, we're so ragged---

Harp. You'll say, you'd serve me?

Hir. Before any master under the zodiac.

Harp. For clothes no matter; I've a mind to both.

And one thing I like in you; now that you see

The bonfire of your lady's state burnt out,

You give it over, do you not?

Hir. Let her be hanged!

Spun. And poxed!

Harp. Why, now you're mine;

Come, let my bosom touch you.

¹ Foolish. ² A euphemism for drunk.

Spun. We have bugs, sir.

Harp. There's money, fetch your clothes home; there's for you.

Hir. Avoid, vermin! give over our mistress—a man cannot prosper worse, if he serve the devil.

Harp. How! the devil? I'll tell you what now of the devil.

He's no such horrid creature; cloven-footed, Black, saucer-eyed, his nostrils breathing fire, Asthese lying Christians make him.

Both. No!

Harp. He's more loving

To man, than man to man is.

Hir. Is he so? Would we two might come acquainted with him!

Harp. You shall: he's a wondrous good fellow, loves a cup of wine, a whore, anything. You have money; it's ten to one but I'll bring him to some tavern to you or other.

Spun. I'll bespeak the best room in the house for him.

Harp. Some people he cannot endure.

Hir. We'll give him no such cause.

Harp. He hates a civil lawyer, as a soldier does peace.

Spun. How a commoner? 1

Harp. Loves him from the teeth outward,

Spun. Pray, my lord and prince, let me encounter you with one foolish question: does the devil eat any mace in his broth?

Harp. Exceeding much, when his burning fever takes him; and then he has the knuckles of a bailiff boiled to his breakfast.

Hir. Then, my lord, he loves a catchpole, does he not?

Harp. As a bearward does a dog. A catchpole! he

A common lawyer.

A bear-keeper.

has sworn, if ever he dies, to make a serjeant his heir, and a yeoman his overseer.

Spun. How if he come to any great man's gate, will the porter let him come in, sir?

Harp. Oh! he loves porters of great men's gates, because they are ever so near the wicket.

Hir. Do not they whom he makes much on, for all his stroking their cheeks, lead hellish lives under him?

Harp. No, no, no, no; he will be damned before he hurts any man: do but you (when you are throughly acquainted with him) ask for anything, see if it does not come.

Spun. Anything!

Harp. Call for a delicate rare whore, she is brought you.

Hir. Oh! my elbow itches. Will the devil keep the

Harp. Be drunk as a beggar, he helps you home.

Spun. O my fine devil! some watchman, I warrant; I wonder who is his constable.

Harp. Will you swear, roar, swagger? he claps you----

Hir. How? on the chops?

Harp. No, on the shoulder; and cries, "O, my brave boy!" Will any of you kill a man?

Spun. Yes, yes; I, I.

Harp. What is his word? "Hang! hang! 'tis nothing."—Or stab a woman?

Hir. Yes, yes; I, I.

Harp. Here is the worst word he gives you: "A pox on't, go on!"

Hir. O inveigling rascal !—I am ravished.

Harp. Go, get your clothes; turn up your glass of youth,

And let the sands run merrily: nor do I care From what a lavish hand your money flies, So you give none away, feed beggars——

Hir. Hang them!

Harp. And to the scrubbing 1 poor.

Hir. I'll see them hanged first.

Harp. One service you must do me.

Both. Anything.

Harp. Your mistress, Dorothea, ere she suffers, Is to be put to tortures: have you hearts
To tear her into shrieks, to fetch her soul

To tear her into shrieks, to fetch her soul Up in the pangs of death, yet not to die?

Hir. Suppose this she, and that I had no hands, here's my teeth.

Spun. Suppose this she, and that I had no teeth, here's my nails.

Hir. But will not you be there, sir?

Harp. No, not for hills of diamonds; the grand master,

Who schools her in the Christian discipline,
Abhors my company: should I be there,
You'd think all hell broke loose, we should so quarrel.
Ply you this business; he her flesh who spares
Is lost, and in my love never more shares.

[Exit.

Spun. Here's a master, you rogue!

Hir. Sure he cannot choose but have a horrible number of servants.

1 "Scrubbing" is used in much the same contemptuous sense as "scrubby" in modern slang. Compare Merchant of Venice, v. 1. 162.





ACT THE FOURTH.

SCENE I.—The Governor's Palace.

Antoninus on a couch asleep, with Doctors about him; Sapritius and Macrinus.

AP. O you, that are half gods, lengthen that life

Their deities lend us; turn o'er all the volumes

Of your mysterious Æsculapian science, To increase the number of this young man's days;

And, for each minute of his time prolonged, Your fee shall be a piece of Roman gold With Cæsar's stamp, such as he sends his captains When in the wars they earn well: do but save him, And, as he's half myself, be you all mine.

1st Doct. What art can do, we promise; physic's hand

As apt is to destroy as to preserve,
If Heaven make not the medicine: all this while,
Our skill hath combat held with his disease;
But 'tis so armed, and a deep melancholy,
To be such in part with death, we are in fear
The grave must mock our labours.

Mac. I have been

His keeper in this sickness, with such eyes As I have seen my mother watch o'er me; And, from that observation, sure I find It is a midwife must deliver him.

Sap. Is he with child? a midwife! 'Mac. Yes, with child; And will, I fear, lose life, if by a woman He is not brought to bed. Stand by his pillow Some little while, and, in his broken slumbers, Him shall vou hear cry out on Dorothea: And, when his arms fly open to catch her, Closing together, he falls fast asleep, Pleased with embracings of her airy form. Physicians but torment him, his disease Laughs at their gibberish language: let him hear The voice of Dorothea, nay, but the name, He starts up with high colour in his face: She, or none, cures him; and how that can be, The princess' strict command barring that happiness, To me impossible seems.

Sap. To me it shall not;
I'll be no subject to the greatest Cæsar
Was ever crowned with laurel, rather than cease
To be a father.

[Exit.

Mac. Silence, sir, he wakes.

Anton. Thou kill'st me, Dorothea; oh, Dorothea!

Mac. She's here: enjoy her.

Anton. Where? Why do you mock me?

Age on my head hath stuck no white hairs yet,
Yet I'm an old man, a fond doting fool
Upon a woman. I, to buy her beauty,
(Truth, I am bewitched!) offer my life,
And she, for my acquaintance, hazards hers:
Yet, for our equal sufferings, none holds out
A hand of pity.

1st Doct. Let him have some music.

Anton. Hell on your fiddling! [Starts from his couch.

1st Doct. Take again your bed, sir;

Sleep is a sovereign physic.

Anton. Take an ass's head, sir:

Confusion on your fooleries, your charms !-

Thou stinking clyster-pipe, where's the god of rest, Thy pills and base apothecary drugs
Threatened to bring unto me? Out, you impostors!
Quacksalving, cheating mountebanks! your skill
Is to make sound men sick, and sick men kill.

Mac. Oh, be yourself, dear friend.

Anton. Myself, Macrinus!

How can I be myself, when I am mangled Into a thousand pieces? Here moves my head, But where's my heart? wherever—that lies dead.

Re-enter Sapritius, dragging in Dorothea by the hair, Angelo following.

Sap. Follow me, thou damned sorceress! Call up thy And, if they can, now let them from my hand [spirits, Untwine these witching hairs.

Anton. I am that spirit:

Or, if I be not, were you not my father, One made of iron should hew that hand in pieces, That so defaces this sweet monument Of my love's beauty.

Sap. Art thou sick?

Anton. To death.

Sap. Wouldst thou recover?

Anton. Would I live in bliss!

Sap. And do thine eyes shoot daggers at that man That brings thee health?

Anton. It is not in the world.

Sap. It's here.

Anton. To treasure, by enchantment locked In caves as deep as hell, am I as near.

Sap. Break that enchanted cave: enter, and rifle
The spoils thy lust hunts after; I descend
To a base office, and become thy pander,
In bringing thee this proud thing: make her thy whore,
Thy health lies here; if she deny to give it,
Force it: imagine thou assault'st a town's

Weak wall: to't, 'tis thine own, beat but this down.— Come, and, unseen, be witness to this battery. How the coy strumpet yields.

1st Doct. Shall the boy stay, sir?

Sap. No matter for the boy: pages are used To these odd bawdy shufflings; and, indeed, are Those little young snakes in a Fury's head, Will sting worse than the great ones. Let the pimp stay. [Exeunt Sapritius, Macrinus, and Doctors.

Dor. O, guard me, angels!

What tragedy must begin now?

Anton. When a tiger

Leaps into a timorous herd, with ravenous jaws, Being hunger-starved, what tragedy then begins?

Dor. Death: I am happy so. You, hitherto, Have still had goodness sphered 1 within your eyes, Let not that orb be broken,

Ang. Fear not, mistress;

If he dare offer violence, we two

Are strong enough for such a sickly man.

Dor. What is your horrid purpose, sir? your eye Bears danger in it.

Anton. I must-

Dor. What?

Sap. [Within.] Speak it out.

Anton. Climb that sweet virgin tree.

Sap. [Within.] Plague o' your trees!

Anton. And pluck that fruit which none, I think, e'er tasted.

Sap. [Within.] A soldier, and stand fumbling so! Kneels.

Dor. Oh, kill me.

And Heaven will take it as a sacrifice; But, if you play the ravisher, there is

A hell to swallow you.

¹ The quarto has "spard," which might just conceivably be right, as "spar" was sometimes used in the sense of shut up, or enclose.

Sap. [Within.] Let her swallow thee!
Anton. Rise: for the Roman empire, Dorothea,
I would not wound thine honour. Pleasures forced
Are unripe apples; sour, not worth the plucking:
Yet, let me tell you, 'tis my father's will
That I should seize upon you, as my prey,
Which I abhor, as much as the blackest sin
The villainy of man did ever act.

SAPRITIUS breaks in with MACRINUS.

Dor. Die happy for this language! Sap. Die a slave,

A blockish idiot!

Mac. Dear sir, vex him not.

Sap. Yes, and vex thee too: both, I think, are geld-Cold, phlegmatic bastard, thou'rt no brat of mine; [ings; One spark of me, when I had heat like thine, By this had made a bonfire: a tempting whore, For whom thou'rt mad, thrust e'en into thine arms, And stand'st thou puling! Had a tailor seen her At this advantage, he, with his cross capers, Had ruffled her by this. But thou shalt curse Thy dalliance, and here, before her eyes, Tear thy flesh in pieces, when a slave In hot lust bathes himself, and gluts those pleasures Thy niceness durst not touch. Call out a slave; You, captain of our guard, fetch a slave hither.

Anton. What will you do, dear sir?

Sap. Teach her a trade,
Which many would learn in less t

Which many would learn in less than half an hour,— To play the whore.

Enter Soldiers with a Slave.

Mac. A slave is come; what now?
Sap. Thou hast bones and flesh
Enough to ply thy labour; from what country
Wert thou ta'en prisoner, here to be our slave?

¹ Gifford reads "Tear thy own flesh," which is perhaps right.

Slave. From Britain.

Sap. In the west ocean?

Slave. Yes.

Sap. An island?

Slave. Yes.

Sap. I'm fitted: of all nations

Our Roman swords e'er conquered, none comes near The Briton for true whoring. Sirrah, fellow,

What wouldst thou do to gain thy liberty?

Slave. Do! liberty! fight naked with a lion, Venture to pluck a standard from the heart Of an armed legion. Liberty! I'd thus Bestride a rampire, and defiance spit I' the face of death, then when the battering ram

Was fetching his career backward, to pash Me with his horns in pieces. To shake my chains off, And that I could not do't but by thy death,

Stood'st thou on this dry shore, I on a rock

Ten pyramids high, down would I leap to kill thee,

Or die myself: what is for man to do,

I'll venture on, to be no more a slave.

Sap. Thou shalt, then, be no slave, for I will set thee

Upon a piece of work is fit for man,

Brave for a Briton:—drag that thing aside,

And ravish her.

Slave. And ravish her! is this your manly service?

A devil scorns to do it; 'tis for a beast,

A villain, not a man: I am, as yet,

But half a slave; but, when that work is past,

A damned whole one, a black ugly slave,

The slave of all base slaves:—do't thyself, Roman,

'Tis drudgery fit for thee.

Sap. He's bewitched too:

Bind him, and with a bastinado give him,

Upon his naked belly, two hundred blows.

Slave. Thou art more slave than I. [He is carried in.

¹ Rampart.

Dor. That Power supernal on whom waits my soul Is captain o'er my chastity.

Anton. Good sir, give o'er:

The more you wrong her, yourself's vexed the more.

Sap. Plagues light on her and thee!—thus down throw

Thy harlot, thus by the hair nail her to earth. Call in ten slaves, let every one discover What lust desires, and surfeit here his fill. Call in ten slaves.

Enter Slaves.

Mac. They are come, sir, at your call. Sap. Oh, oh!

Falls down.

Enter THEOPHILUS.

Theo. Where is the governor?

Anton. There's my wretched father.

Thev. My Lord Sapritius—he's not dead !—my lord ! That witch there—

Anton. 'Tis no Roman gods can strike These fearful terrors. O, thou happy maid, Forgive this wicked purpose of my father.

Dor. I do.

Theo. Gone, gone; he's peppered. It is thou Hast done this act infernal.

Dor. Heaven pardon you!

And if my wrongs from thence pull vengeance down, I can no miracles work, yet, from my soul, Pray to those Powers I serve, he may recover.

Theo. He stirs—help, raise him up,—my lord!

Sap. Where am I?

Theo. One cheek is blasted.

Sap. Blasted! where's the lamia²

That tears my entrails? I'm bewitched; seize on her.

¹ The quarto gives this speech to Angelo. There can be little doubt of the correctness of Gifford's emendation.

² Witch, vampire.

Dor. I'm here; do what you please.

Theo. Spurn her to the bar.

Dor. Come, boy, being there, more near to Heaven we are.

Sap. Kick harder; go out, witch!

[Exeunt all but Antoninus.

Anton. O bloody hangmen! Thine own gods give thee breath!

Each of thy tortures is my several death.

Exit.



SCENE II.—A Public Square.

Enter HARPAX, HIRCIUS, and SPUNGIUS.

Harp. Do you like my service now? say, am not I A master worth attendance?

Spun. Attendance! I had rather lick clean the soles of your dirty boots, than wear the richest suit of any infected lord, whose rotten life hangs between the two poles.

Hir. A lord's suit! I would not give up the cloak of your service, to meet the splayfoot estate of any left-eyed knight above the antipodes; because they are unlucky to meet.

Harp. This day I'll try your loves to me; 'tis only But well to use the agility of your arms.

Spun. Or legs, I am lusty at them.

Hir. Or any other member that has no legs.

Spun. Thou'lt run into some hole.

Hir. If I meet one that's more than my match, and that I cannot stand in their hands, I must and will creep on my knees.

Harp. Hear me, my little team of villains, hear me; I cannot teach you fencing with these cudgels, Yet you must use them; lay them on but soundly; That's all.

Mass. II.

Hir. Nay, if we come to mauling once, puh! Spun. But what walnut-tree is it we must beat? Harp. Your mistress.

Hir. How! my mistress? I begin to have a Christian's heart made of sweet butter, I melt; I cannot strike a woman.

Spun. Nor I, unless she scratch;—bum my mistress! Harp. You're coxcombs, silly animals.

Hir. What's that?

Harp. Drones, asses, blinded moles, that dare not thrust

Your arms out to catch fortune: say, you fall off, It must be done. You are converted rascals, And, that once spread abroad, why, every slave Will kick you, call you motley Christians, And half-faced Christians.

Spun. The guts of my conscience begin to be of whit-leather.¹

Hir. I doubt me, I shall have no sweet butter in me.

Harp. Deny this, and each pagan whom you meet Shall forked fingers thrust into your eyes——

Hir. If we be cuckolds.

Harp. Do this, and every god the Gentiles bow to Shall add a fathom to your line of years.

Spun. A hundred fathom, I desire no more.

Hir. I desire but one inch longer.

Harp. The senators will, as you pass along, Clap you upon your shoulders with this hand, And with this hand give you gold: when you are dead, Happy that man shall be can get a nail, The paring,—nay, the dirt under the nail, Of any of you both, to say, this dirt Belonged to Spungius or Hircius.

Spun. They shall not want dirt under my nails, I will keep them long of purpose, for now my fingers itch to be at her.

¹ Leather made very rough by peculiar dressing.—Nares.

Hir. The first thing I do, I'll take her over the lips.

Spun. And I the hips,—we may strike anywhere? Harp. Yes, anywhere.

Hir. Then I know where I'll hit her.

Harp. Prosper, and be mine own; stand by I must not

To see this done; great business calls me hence: He's made can make her curse his violence. [Exit.

Spun. Fear it not, sir; her ribs shall be basted.

Hir. I'll come upon her with rounce, robble-hobble, and thwick-thwack-thirlery bouncing.

Enter Dorothea, led prisoner; Sapritius, Theophilus, Angelo, and a Hangman, who sets up a Pillar: Sapritius and Theophilus sit; Angelo stands by Dorothea. A Guard attending.

Sap. According to our Roman customs, bind That Christian to a pillar.

Theo. Infernal Furies,

Could they into my hand thrust all their whips
To tear thy flesh, thy soul, 'tis not a torture
Fit to the vengeance I should heap on thee,
For wrongs done me—me! for flagitious facts '
By thee done to our gods: yet, so it stand
To great Cæsarea's governor's high pleasure,
Bow but thy knee to Jupiter, and offer
Any slight sacrifice; or do but swear
By Cæsar's fortune, and be free.

Sap. Thou shalt.

Dor. Not for all Cæsar's fortune, were it chained To more worlds than are kingdoms in the world, And all those worlds drawn after him. I defy Your hangmen; you now show me whither to fly.

Sap. Are her tormentors ready?
Ang. Shrink not, dear mistress.

¹ Deeds.

Exit.

Spun. & Hir. My lord, we are ready for the business. Dor. You two! whom I like fostered children fed, And lengthened out your starved life with bread; You be my hangmen! whom, when up the ladder Death haled you to be strangled, I fetched down, Clothed you, and warmed you, you two my tormentors!

Both. Yes, we.

Dor. Divine Powers pardon you!

Sap. Strike.

They strike at her; Angelo kneeling holds her fast.

Theo. Beat out her brains.

Dor. Receive me, you bright angels!

Sap. Faster, slaves.

Spun. Faster! I am out of breath, I am sure; if I were to beat a buck, I can strike no harder.

Hir. O mine arms! I cannot lift them to my head.

Dor. Joy above joys! are my tormentors weary In torturing me, and, in my sufferings, I fainting in no limb! tyrants, strike home, And feast your fury full.

Theo. These dogs are curs, [Comes from his seal. Which snarl, yet bite not. See, my lord, her face Has more bewitching beauty than before: Proud whore, it smiles! cannot an eye start out, With these?

Hir. No, sir, nor the bridge of her nose fall; 'tis full of iron-work.

Sap. Let's view the cudgels, are they not counterfeit?

Ang. There fix thine eye still;—thy glorious crown
must come

Not from soft pleasure, but by martyrdom.

There fix thine eye still;—when we next do meet,

Not thorns, but roses, shall bear up thy feet:

There fix thine eye still.

Dor. Ever, ever, ever!

¹ A quantity of linen washed at once; a tub-full of linen in buck.—Halliwell.

Enter HARPAX, sneaking.

Theo. We're mocked; these bats have power to fell Yet her skin is not scarred. [down 1 giants,

Sap. What rogues are these?

Theo. Cannot these force a shriek? [Beats Spungius.

Spun. Oh! a woman has one of my ribs, and now five more are broken.

Theo. Cannot this make her roar?

Beats HIRCIUS; he roars.

Sap. Who hired these slaves? what are they?

Spun. We serve that noble gentleman, there; he enticed us to this dry beating: oh, for one half pot!

Harp. My servants! two base rogues, and sometimes To her, and for that cause forbear to hurt her. [servants Sap. Unbind her; hang up these.

Theo. Hang the two hounds on the next tree.

Hir. Hang us! Master Harpax, what a devil, shall we be thus used?

Harp. What bandogs? but you two would worry a woman?

Your mistress? I but clapped you, you flew on.
Say I should get your lives, each rascal beggar
Would, when he met you, cry "Out, hell-hounds!
Spit at you, fling dirt at you; and no woman [traitors!"
Ever endure your sight: 'tis your best course
Now, had you secret knives, to stab yourselves;—
But, since you have not, go and be hanged.

Hir. I thank you.

Harp. 'Tis your best course.

Theo. Why stay they trifling here?

To the gallows drag them by the heels ;--away!

Spun. By the heels! no, sir, we have legs to do us that service.

Hir. Ay, ay, if no woman can endure my sight, away with me.

1 The quarto has "downe to fell."

² Dogs kept chained up, like those used for baiting animals.

Harp. Dispatch them.

Spun. The devil dispatch thee!

[Exeunt Guard with Spungius and Hircius.

Sap. Death this day rides in triumph, Theophilus. See this witch made away too.

Theo. My soul thirsts for it;

Come, I myself the hangman's part could play.

Dor. O hasten me to my coronation day! [Exeunt.



SCENE III.—The Place of Execution. A scaffold, block, &c.

Enter Antoninus, supported by Macrinus, and Servants.

Anton. Is this the place where virtue is to suffer, And heavenly beauty, leaving this base earth, To make a glad return from whence it came? Is it, Macrinus?

Mac. By this preparation, You well may rest assured that Dorothea This hour is to die here.

Anton. Then with her dies
The abstract of all sweetness that's in woman!
Set me down, friend, that, ere the iron hand
Of death close up mine eyes, they may at once
Take my last leave both of this light and her:
For, she being gone, the glorious sun himself
To me's Cimmerian darkness.

Mac. Strange affection! Cupid ¹ once more hath changed his shafts with Death, And kills, instead of giving life.

¹ Gifford compares the Elegies of Secundus, ii. 6. See Fairfax's Tasso (1600), ii. 34:

"Death hath exchanged again his shafts with Love, And Cupid thus lets borrowed arrows fly." Anton. Nay, weep not;
Though tears of friendship be a sovereign balm,
On me they're cast away. It is decreed
That I must die with her; our clue of life
Was spun together.

Mac. Yet, sir, 'tis my wonder,
That you, who, hearing only what she suffers,
Partake of all her tortures, yet will be,
To add to your calamity, an eye-witness
Of her last tragic scene, which must pierce deeper,
And make the wound more desperate.

Anton. Oh, Macrinus!

'Twould linger out my torments else, not kill me, Which is the end I aim at: being to die too, What instrument more glorious can I wish for Than what is made sharp by my constant love And true affection? It may be, the duty And loyal service with which I pursued her, And sealed it with my death, will be remembered Among her blessed actions: and what honour Can I desire beyond it?

Enter a Guard bringing in Dorothea, a Headsman before her; followed by Theophilus, Sapritius, and Harpax.

See, she comes;

How sweet her innocence appears! more like To Heaven itself than any sacrifice
That can be offered to it. By my hopes
Of joys hereafter, the sight makes me doubtful
In my belief; nor can I think our gods
Are good, or to be served, that take delight
In offerings of this kind: that, to maintain
Their power, deface the master-piece of nature,
Which they themselves come short of. She ascends,
And every step raises her nearer Heaven.
What god soe'er thou art, that must enjoy her,
Receive in her a boundless happiness!

Sap. You are to blame To let him come abroad.

Mac. It was his will;

And we were left to serve him, not command him.

Anton. Good sir, be not offended; nor deny My last of pleasures in this happy object, That I shall e'er be blest with.

Theo. Now, proud contemner Of us, and of our gods, tremble to think It is not in the Power thou serv'st to save thee. Not all the riches of the sea, increased By violent shipwrecks, nor the unsearched mines (Mammon's unknown exchequer), shall redeem thee; And, therefore, having first with horror weighed What 'tis to die, and to die young; to part with All pleasures and delights: lastly, to go Where all antipathies to comfort dwell, Furies behind, about thee, and before thee; And, to add to affliction, the remembrance Of the Elysian joys thou mightst have tasted, Hadst thou not turned apostata to those gods That so reward their servants; let despair Prevent 1 the hangman's sword, and on this scaffold Make thy first entrance into hell.

Anton. She smiles, Unmoved, by Mars! as it she were assured Death, looking on her constancy, would forget The use of his inevitable hand.

Theo. Derided too! dispatch, I say.

Dor. Thou fool!

That gloriest in having power to ravish A trifle from me I am weary of.
What is this life to me? not worth a thought;
Or, if it be esteemed, 'tis that I lose it
To win a better: even thy malice serves
To me but as a ladder to mount up

1 Anticipate.

To such a height of happiness, where I shall Look down with scorn on thee, and on the world; Where, circled with true pleasures, placed above The reach of death or time, 'twill be my glory To think at what an easy price I bought it. There's a perpetual spring, perpetual youth: No joint-benumbing cold, nor scorching heat, Famine, nor age, have any being there. Forget, for shame, your Tempe; bury in Oblivion your feigned Hesperian orchards:-The golden fruit, kept by the watchful dragon, Which did require a Hercules to get it. Compared with what grows in all plenty there, Deserves not to be named. The Power I serve Laughs at your happy Araby, or the Elysian shades; for He hath made His bowers Better in deed than you can fancy yours.

Anton. O, take me thither with you! Dor. Trace my steps,

And be assured you shall.

Sap. With mine own hands I'll rather stop that little breath is left thee, And rob thy killing fever.

Theo. By no means;

Let him go with her: do, seduced young man,
And wait upon thy saint in death; do, do:
And, when you come to that imagined place,
That place of all delights,—pray you, observe me,—
And meet those cursed things I once called daughters,
Whom I have sent as harbingers before you;
If there be any truth in your religion,
In thankfulness to me, that with care hasten
Your journey thither, pray you send me some
Small pittance of that curious fruit you boast of.

Anton. Grant that I may go with her and I will

Anton. Grant that I may go with her, and I will. Sap. Wilt thou in thy last minute damn thyself? Theo. The gates to hell are open.

Dor. Know, thou tyrant, Thou agent for the devil, thy great master, Though thou art most unworthy to taste of it, I can, and will.

Enter Angelo in the Angel's habit.

Harp. Oh! mountains fall upon me, Or hide me in the bottom of the deep, Where light may never find me!

Theo. What's the matter?

Sap. This is prodigious, and confirms her witch-craft.

Theo. Harpax, my Harpax, speak!

Harp. I dare not stay:

Should I but hear her once more, I were lost.

Some whirlwind snatch me from this cursed place,
To which compared (and with what now I suffer,)
Hell's torments are sweet slumbers!

[Exit.

Sap. Follow him.

Theo. He is distracted, and I must not lose him.—
Thy charms upon my servant, cursed witch,
Give thee a short reprieve. Let her not die
Till my return. [Exeunt Sapritius and Theophilus.

Anton. She minds him not: what object Is her eye fixed on?

Mac. I see nothing.

Anton. Mark her.

Dor. Thou glorious minister of the Power I serve! (For thou art more than mortal,) is't for me, Poor sinner, thou art pleased awhile to leave Thy heavenly habitation, and vouchsafest, Though glorified, to take my servant's habit?—For, put off thy divinity, so looked My lovely Angelo.

Ang. Know, I am the same; And still the servant to your piety.

1 i.e. A prodigy.

Your zealous prayers and pious deeds first won me (But 'twas by His command to whom you sent them) To guide your steps. I tried your charity, When in a beggar's shape you took me up, And clothed my naked limbs, and after fed, As you believed, my famished mouth. Learn all, By your example, to look on the poor With gentle eyes! for in such habits, often, Angels desire an alms. I never left you. Nor will I now; for I am sent to carry Your pure and innocent soul to joys eternal, Your martyrdom once suffered; and before it, Ask anything from me, and rest assured You shall obtain it.

Dor. I am largely paid
For all my torments. Since I find such grace,
Grant that the love of this young man to me,
In which he languisheth to death, may be
Changed to the love of Heaven.

Ang. I will perform it; And in that instant when the sword sets free Your happy soul, his shall have liberty. Is there aught else?

Dor. For proof that I forgive
My persecutor, who in scorn desired
To taste of that most sacred fruit I go to,
After my death, as sent from me, be pleased
To give him of it.

Ang. Willingly, dear mistress.

Mac. I am amazed.

Anton. I feel a holy fire,
That yields a comfortable heat within me;
I am quite altered from the thing I was.
See! I can stand, and go alone; thus kneel
To heavenly Dorothea, touch her hand
With a religious kiss.

[Kneels.

¹ Compare Hebrews xiii. 2.

Re-enter Sapritius and Theophilus.

Sap. He is well now,

But will not be drawn back.

Theo. It matters not;

We can discharge this work without his help.

But see your son. Sap. Villain!

Anton. Sir, I beseech you,

Being so near our ends, divorce us not.

Theo. I'll quickly make a separation of them.

Hast thou aught else to say?

Dor. Nothing, but to blame

Thy tardiness in sending me to rest;

My peace is made with Heaven, to which my soul

Begins to take her flight: strike, O! strike quickly;

And, though you are unmoved to see my death,

Hereafter, when my story shall be read,

As they were present now, the hearers shall

Say this of Dorothea, with wet eyes, "She lived a virgin, and a virgin dies."

[Her head is struck off.

Anton. O, take my soul along, to wait on thine!

Mac. Your son sinks too.

[Antoninus falls.

Sap. Already dead!

Theo. Die all

That are, or favour this accursed sect:

I triumph in their ends, and will raise up

A hill of their dead carcasses, to o'erlook

The Pyrenean hills, but I'll root out

These superstitious fools, and leave the world No name of Christian.

[Loud music. Exit Angelo, having first laid his hand upon the mouths of Antoninus and Dorothes.

Sap. Ha! heavenly music!

Mac. 'Tis in the air.

Theo. Illusions of the devil,

Wrought by some witch 1 of her religion, That fain would make her death a miracle; It frights not me. Because he is your son, Let him have burial; but let her body Be cast forth with contempt in some highway, And be to vultures and to dogs a prey.

Exeunt.

1 The quarto reads "one." The conjectural emendation which I find in Gifford (whether due to him or to one of his predecessors) is ingenious and plausible. It is confirmed, not merely by the general sense of the context, but by the passage in which Sapritius, speaking of this music, says to Theophilus:

"Yet you said then 'twas witchcraft, And devilish illusions."





ACT THE FIFTH.

SCENE I.—Theophilus discovered sitting in his Study; books about him.

HEO. Is't holiday, O Cæsar, that thy servant,

Thy provost, to see execution done On these base Christians in Cæsarea, Should now want work? Sleep these idolaters,

That none are stirring?—As a curious

When he has made some admirable piece, painter, Stands off, and with a searching eye examines Each colour, how 'tis sweetened; and then hugs Himself for his rare workmanship—so here, Will I my drolleries, and bloody landscapes, Long past wrapped up, unfold, to make me merry With shadows, now I want the substances, My muster-book of hell-hounds. Were the Christians, Whose names stand here, alive and armed, not Rome Could move upon her hinges. What I've done, Or shall hereafter, is not out of hate To poor tormented wretches; no, I'm carried With violence of zeal, and streams of service I owe our Roman gods. [Reads.] "Great Britain," what?

"A thousand wives, with brats sucking their breasts, Had hot irons pinch them off, and thrown to swine; And then their fleshy back-parts, hewed with hatchets, Were minced, and baked in pies to feed the starved Christians."

Ha! ha! Again, again,—" East Angles,"—oh! "East Angles: Bandogs, kept three days hungry, worrièd A thousand British rascals, stied up fat Of purpose, stripped naked, and disarmed." I could outstare a year of suns and moons, To sit at these sweet bull-baitings, so I Could thereby but one Christian win to fall In adoration to my Jupiter.—[Reads.] "Twelve hundred Eves bored with augers out "—Oh! " Eleven thousand Torn by wild beasts: two hundred rammed in the earth To the armpits, and full platters round about them, But far enough for reaching." Eat, dogs, ha! ha! ha! Tush, all these tortures are but fillipings, He rises. Fleabitings; I, before the Destinies

Consort.¹ Enter Angelo with a basket filled with fruit and flowers.

My bottom² did wind up, would flesh myself
Once more upon some one remarkable
Above all these. This Christian slut was well,
A pretty one; but let such horror follow
The next I feed with torments, that when Rome
Shall hear it, her foundation at the sound
May feel an earthquake. How now?

[Music.
Ang. Are you amazed, sir?

So great a Roman spirit—and does it tremble!

Theo. How cam'st thou in? to whom thy business?

Ang. To you;

I had a mistress, late sent hence by you Upon a bloody errand; you entreated,

¹ i.e. Musicians in readiness behind.
2 i.e. The "thread" of my life. Boyer has "A bottom of thread, Un peloton de fil." (Fr. Dict.)

That, when she came into that blessèd garden Whither she knew she went, and where, now happy, She feeds upon all joy, she would send to you Some of that garden fruit and flowers; which here, To have her promise saved, are brought by me.

Theo. Cannot I see this garden?

Ang. Yes, if the Master

Will give you entrance.

He vanishes.

Theo. 'Tis a tempting fruit,

And the most bright-cheeked child I ever viewed:
Sweet-smelling, goodly fruit. What flowers are these?
In Dioclesian's gardens, the most beauteous,
Compared with these, are weeds: is it not February,
The second day she died? frost, ice, and snow
Hang on the beard of winter: where's the sun
That gilds this summer? pretty, sweet boy, say,
In what country shall a man find this garden?—
My delicate boy,—gone! vanished! within there,
Iulianus and Geta!—

Enter Julianus and Geta.

Both. My lord.

Theo. Are my gates shut?

Geta. And guarded.

Theo. Saw you not

A boy?

Jul. Where?

Theo. Here he entered; a young lad;

A thousand blessings danced upon his eyes:

A smoothfaced, glorious thing, that brought this basket. Geta. No, sir.

Theo. Away—but be in reach, if my voice calls you.

[Exeunt JULIANUS and GETA.

No!—vanished and not seen!—Be thou a spirit,
Sent from that witch to mock me, I am sure
This is essential, and, howe'er it grows,
Will taste it.

[Eats of the fruit.]

Harp. [Within.] Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Theo. So good! I'll have some more,1 sure.

Harp. Ha, ha, ha, ha! great liquorish fool!

Theo. What art thou!

Harp. A fisherman.

Theo. What dost thou catch?

Harp. Souls, souls; a fish called souls.

Theo, Geta.

Re-enter GETA.

Geta. My lord.

Harp. [Within.] Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Theo. What insolent slave is this, dares laugh at me? Or what is't the dog grins at so?

Geta. I neither know, my lord, at what, nor whom; for there is none without but my fellow Julianus, and he is making a garland for Jupiter.

Theo. Jupiter! all within me is not well;

And yet not sick.

Harp. [Within.] Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Theo. What's thy name, slave?

Harp. [At one end of the room.] Go look.

Geta. 'Tis Harpax' voice.

Theo. Harpax! go, drag the caitiff to my foot, That I may stamp upon him.

Harp. [At the other end.] Fool, thou liest!

Geta. He's yonder now, my lord.

Theo. Watch thou that end,

Whilst I make good this.

Harp. [In the middle.] Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Theo. He is at barley-break,² and the last couple Are now in hell.

1 The quarto has "now."

² This game was played by six people (three of each sex) who were coupled by lot. The ground was divided into three compartments, the middle one being called "hell." It was the object of the couple condemned to this division to catch the others without breaking hands.

Search for him. [Exit Geta.] All this ground, methinks, is bloody,

And paved with thousands of those Christians' eyes Whom I have tortured; and they stare upon me. What was this apparition? sure it had A shape angelical. Mine eyes, though dazzled, And daunted at first sight, tell me it wore A pair of glorious wings; yes, they were wings; And hence he flew:——'tis vanished! Jupiter, For all my sacrifices done to him, Never once gave me smile.—How can stone smile? Or wooden image laugh? [Music.] Ha! I remember, Such music gave a welcome to my ear, When the fair youth came to me:—'tis in the air, Or from some better place; a Power divine,

Through my dark ignorance, on my soul does shine, And makes me see a conscience all stained o'er.

And makes me see a conscience all stained o'er, Nay, drowned, and damned for ever in Christian gore.

Harp. [Within.] Ha, ha, ha!

Theo. Again!—What dainty relish on my tongue
This fruit hath left! some angel hath me fed;
If so toothfull, I will be banqueted. [Eats again.

Enter HARPAX in a fearful shape, fire flashing out of the Study.

Harp. Hold!

Theo. Not for Cæsar.

Harp. But for me thou shalt.

Theo. Thou art no twin to him that last was here. You Powers, whom my soul bids me reverence, guard me! What art thou?

Harp. I am thy master.

Theo. Mine!

Harp. And thou my everlasting slave: that Harpax, Who hand in hand hath led thee to thy hell, Am I.

Theo. Avaunt !

Harp. I will not; cast thou down That basket with the things in't, and fetch up What thou hast swallowed, and then take a drink, Which I shall give thee, and I'm gone.

Theo. My fruit!

Does this offend thee? see!

Eats again.

Harp. Spit it to the earth,

And tread upon it, or I'll piecemeal tear thee.

Theo. Art thou with this affrighted! see, here's more.

[Pulls out a handful of flowers.

Harp. Fling them away, I'll take thee else, and hang thee

In a contorted chain of icicles,

In the frigid zone: down with them!

Theo. At the bottom

One thing I found not yet. See!

Holds up a cross of flowers.

Harp. Oh! I am tortured.

Theo. Can this do't! hence, thou fiend infernal, hence!

Harp. Clasp Jupiter's image, and away with that.

Theo. At thee I'll fling that Jupiter; for, methinks,

I serve a better master: he now checks me

For murdering my two daughters, put on 1 by thee.—

By thy damned rhetoric did I hunt the life

Of Dorothea, the holy virgin-martyr.

She is not angry with the axe, nor me,

But sends these presents to me; and I'll travel

O'er worlds to find her, and from her white hand

To beg a forgiveness.

Harp. No; I'll bind thee here.

Theo. I serve a strength above thine; this small weapon,

Methinks, is armour hard enough.

Harp. Keep from me.

[Sinks a little.

Theo. Art posting to thy centre? down, hell-hound!

¹ Instigated.

Me hast thou lost. That arm, which hurls thee hence,
[Harpax disappears.

Save me, and set me up, the strong defence, In the fair Christian's quarrel!

Re-enter Angelo.

Ang. Fix thy foot there,

Nor be thou shaken with a Cæsar's voice,
Though thousand deaths were in it; and I then
Will bring thee to a river, that shall wash
Thy bloody hands clean and more white than snow;
And to that garden where these blest things grow,
And to that martyred virgin, who hath sent
That heavenly token to thee: spread this brave wing,
And serve, than Cæsar, a far greater king. [Exit.

Theo. It is, it is, some angel. Vanished again! Oh, come back, ravishing boy! bright messenger! Thou hast, by these mine eyes fixed on thy beauty, Illumined all my soul. Now look I back On my black tyrannies, which, as they did Outdare the bloodiest, thou, blest spirit, that lead'st me, Teach me what I must do, and to do well, That my last act the best may parallel. [Exit.



SCENE II. - DIOCLESIAN'S Palace.

Enter Dioclesian, Maximinus, the Kings of Epire, Pontus, and Macedon, meeting Artemia; Attendants.

Artem. Glory and conquest still attend upon Triumphant Cæsar!

Dioc. Let thy wish, fair daughter, Be equally divided; and hereafter Learn thou to know and reverence Maximinus, Whose power, with mine united, makes one Cæsar, Max. But that I fear 'twould be held flattery, The bonds considered in which we stand tied, As love and empire, I should say, till now I ne'er had seen a lady I thought worthy To be my mistress.

Artem. Sir. you show yourself Both courtier and soldier; but take heed. Take heed, my lord, though my dull-pointed beauty, Stained by a harsh refusal in my servant, Cannot dart forth such beams as may inflame you. You may encounter such a powerful one, That with a pleasing heat will thaw your heart. Though bound in ribs of ice. Love still is Love; His bow and arrows are the same. Great Julius, That to his successors left the name of Cæsar, Whom war could never tame, that with dry eves Beheld the large plains of Pharsalia covered With the dead carcases of senators And citizens of Rome; when the world knew No other lord but him, struck deep in years too, (And men gray-haired forget the lusts of youth,) After all this, meeting fair Cleopatra, A suppliant too, the magic of her eye, Even in his pride of conquest, took him captive: Nor are you more secure.

Max. Were you deformed,
(But, by the gods, you are most excellent,)
Your gravity and discretion would o'ercome me;
And I should be more proud in being a prisoner
To your fair virtues, than of all the honours,
Wealth, title, empire, that my sword hath purchased.

Dioc. This meets my wishes. Welcome it, Artemia, With outstretched arms, and study to forget
That Antoninus ever was: thy fate
Reserved thee for this better choice; embrace it.

Max. This happy match brings new nerves to give
To our continued league. [strength]

Dioc.¹ Hymen himself
Will bless this marriage, which we'll solemnize
In the presence of these kings.

King of Pont. Who rest most happy, To be eye-witnesses of a match that brings Peace to the empire.

Dioc. We much thank your loves:
But where's Sapritius, our governor,
And our most zealous provost, good Theophilus?
If ever prince were blest in a true servant,
Or could the gods be debtors to a man,
Both they and we stand far engaged to cherish
His piety and service.

Artem. Sir, the governor
Brooks² sadly his son's loss, although he turned
Apostata in death: but bold Theophilus,
Who, for the same cause, in my presence sealed
His holy anger on his daughters' hearts,
Having with tortures first tried to convert her,
Dragged the bewitching Christian to the scaffold,
And saw her lose her head.

Dioc. He is all worthy:
And from his own mouth I would gladly hear
The manner how she suffered.

Artem. 'Twill be delivered With such contempt and scorn, (I know his nature,) That rather 'twill beget your highness' laughter Than the least pity.

Dioc. To that end I would hear it.

Enter Theophilus, Sapritius, and Macrinus.

Artem. He comes; with him the governor.

Dioc. O, Sapritius,
I am to chide you for your tenderness;

I am to chide you for your tenderness; But yet remembering that you are a father,

¹ The quarto gives this speech to the King of Macedon.
2 "To brook [bear], tolero."—Coles, Lat. Dict.

I will forget it. Good Theophilus, I'll speak with you anon.—Nearer, your ear.

To SAPRITIUS.

Theo. [Aside to MACRINUS.] By Antoninus' soul, I do conjure you,

And though not for religion, for his friendship, Without demanding what's the cause that moves me, Receive my signet:—by the power of this, Go to my prisons, and release all Christians That are in fetters there by my command.

Mac. But what shall follow?

Theo. Haste then to the port;
You there shall find two tall ¹ ships ready rigged,
In which embark the poor distressed souls,
And bear them from the reach of tyranny.
Inquire not whither you are bound: the Deity
That they adore will give you prosperous winds,
And make your voyage such, and largely pay for
Your hazard, and your travail. Leave me here;
There is a scene that I must act alone:

Haste, good Macrinus; and the great God guide you!

Mac. I'll undertake't; there's something prompts me 'Tis to save innocent blood, a saint-like act: [to it; And to be merciful has never been

And to be merciful has never been By moral 2 men themselves esteemed a sin.

Exit.

Dioc. You know your charge? Sap. And will with care observe it.

Dioc. For I profess he is not Cæsar's friend That sheds a tear for any torture that A Christian suffers. Welcome, my best servant, My careful, zealous provost! thou hast toiled To satisfy my will, though in extremes: I love thee for't; thou art firm rock, no changeling. Prithee deliver, and for my sake do it, Without excess of bitterness or scoffs.

¹ i.e. Stout.

² Used in the sense of a low and conventional morality.
³ "To deliver (or speak out in discourse)."—Boyer, Fr. Dict.

Before my brother and these kings, how took The Christian her death?

Theo. And such a presence, Though every private head in this large room Were circled round with an imperial crown, Her story will deserve, it is so full Of excellency and wonder.

Dioc. Ha! how is this!

Theo. O! mark it, therefore, and with that attention As you would hear an embassy from Heaven By a winged legate; for, the truth delivered, Both how, and what, this blessed virgin suffered. And Dorothea but hereafter named. You will rise up with reverence, and no more, As things unworthy of your thoughts, remember What the canonized Spartan ladies were. Which lying Greece so boasts of. Your own matrons. Your Roman dames, whose figures you vet keep As holy relics, in her history Will find a second urn: Gracchus' Cornelia. Paulina, that in death desired to follow Her husband Seneca, nor Brutus' Portia. That swallowed burning coals to overtake him, Though all their several worths were given to one, With this is to be mentioned.

Max. Is he mad?

Dioc. Why, they did die, Theophilus, and boldly; This did no more.

Theo. They, out of desperation,
Or for vain glory of an after-name,
Parted with life: this had not mutinous sons,
As the rash Gracchi were; nor was this saint
A doting mother, as Cornelia was.
This lost no husband, in whose overthrow
Her wealth and honour sunk; no fear of want
Did make her being tedious; but, aiming
At an immortal crown, and in His cause

'v can bestow it; who sent down

Legions of ministering angels to bear up Her spotless soul to Heaven, who entertained it With choice celestial music, equal to The motion of the spheres; she, uncompelled, Changed this life for a better. My Lord Sapritius, You were present at her death: did you e'er hear Such ravishing sounds?

Sap. Yet you said then 'twas witchcraft, And devilish illusions.

Theo. I then heard it With sinful ears, and belched out blasphemous words Against His Deity, which then I knew not, Nor did believe in Him.

Dioc. Why, dost thou now? Or dar'st thou, in our hearing-

Theo. Were my voice As loud as is His thunder, to be heard Through all the world, all potentates on earth Ready to burst with rage, should they but hear it; Though hell, to aid their malice, lent her furies, Yet I would speak, and speak again, and boldly, I am a Christian, and the Powers you worship But dreams of fools and madmen.

Max. Lay hands on him.

Dioc. Thou twice a child! for doting age so makes Thou couldst not else, thy pilgrimage of life [thee, Being almost passed through, in the last moment Destroy whate'er thou hast done good or great-Thy youth did promise much; and, grown a man, Thou mad'st it good, and, with increase of years, Thy actions still bettered :as the sun. Thou didst rise gloriously, kept'st a constant course In all thy journey; and now, in the evening, When thou shouldst pass with honour to thy rest, Wilt thou fall like a meteor?

Sap. Yet confess

That thou art mad, and that thy tongue and heart Had no agreement.

Max. Do; no way is left, else, To save thy life, Theophilus.

Dioc. But, refuse it,

Destruction as horrid, and as sudden. Shall fall upon thee, as if hell stood open,

And thou wert sinking thither.

Theo. Hear me, yet: Hear, for my service past.

Artem. What will he say?

Theo. As ever I deserved your favour, hear me. And grant one boon; 'tis not for life I sue for; Nor is it fit that I, that ne'er knew pity To any Christian, being one myself, Should look for any; no, I rather beg The utmost of your cruelty. I stand Accountable for thousand Christians' deaths: And, were it possible that I could die A day for every one, then live again To be again tormented, 'twere to me An easy penance, and I should pass through A gentle cleansing fire; but, that denied me, It being beyond the strength of feeble nature. My suit is, you would have no pity on me. In mine own house there are a thousand engines Of studied cruelty, which I did prepare For miserable Christians; let me feel, As the Sicilian 1 did his brazen bull. The horrid'st you can find; and I will say, In death, that you are merciful.

Dioc. Despair not;

In this thou shalt prevail. Go fetch them hither.

Exeunt some of the Guard.

Death shall put on a thousand shapes at once, And so appear before thee; racks, and whips!— Thy flesh, with burning pincers torn, shall feed The fire that heats them; and what's wanting to The torture of thy body, I'll supply

¹ Phalaris.

In punishing thy mind. Fetch all the Christians That are in hold; and here, before his face, Cut them in pieces.

Theo. 'Tis not in thy power:

It was the first good deed I ever did.

They are removed out of thy reach; howe'er,

I was determined for my sins to die,

I first took order for their liberty;

And still I dare thy worst.

Re-enter Guard with racks and other instruments of torture.

Dioc. Bind him, I say;
Make every artery and sinew crack:
The slave that makes him give the loudest shriek
Shall have ten thousand drachmas: wretch! I'll force
To curse the Power thou worshipp'st. [thee

Theo. Never, never:

No breath of mine shall e'er be spent on Him, But what shall speak His majesty or mercy.

They torment him

I'm honoured in my sufferings. Weak tormentors, More tortures, more:—alas! you are unskilful—For Heaven's sake more; my breast is yet untorn: Here purchase the reward that was propounded. The irons cool,—here are arms yet, and thighs; Spare no part of me.

Max. He endures beyond The sufferance of a man. Sap. No sigh nor groan, To witness he has feeling. Dioc. Harder, villains!

Enter HARPAX.

Harp. Unless that he blaspheme, he's lost for ever.

If torments ever could bring forth despair,

Let these compel him to it:—Oh me!

My ancient enemies again!

[Falls down.

Enter DOROTHEA in a white robe, a crown upon her had, led in by Angelo; Antoninus, Calista, and Christeta following, all in white, but less glorious; Angelo holds out a crown to Theophilus.

• Theo. Most glorious vision!—
Did e'er so hard a bed yield man a dream
So heavenly as this? I am confirmed,
Confirmed, you blessed spirits, and make haste
To take that crown of immortality
You offer to me. Death! till this blest minute,
I never thought thee slow-paced; nor could I
Hasten thee now, for any pain I suffer,
But that thou keep'st me from a glorious wreath,
Which through this stormy way I would creep to,
And, humbly kneeling, with humility wear it.
Oh! now I feel thee:—blessed spirits! I come;
And, witness for me all these wounds and scars,
I die a soldier in the Christian wars.

[L.]

Sap. I have seen thousands tortured, but ne'er yet A constancy like this.

Harp. I am twice damned.

Ang. Haste to thy place appointed, cursed fiend! [HARPAX sinks with thunder and lightning.

In spite of hell, this soldier's not thy prey; 'Tis I have won, thou that hast lost the day.

[Exit with DOROTHEA, &C.

Dioc. I think the centre of the earth be cracked—Yet I stand still unmoved, and will go on:
The persecution that is here begun,
Through all the world with violence shall run.

[Flourish. Exeunt.





BELIEVE AS YOU LIST.







ELIEVE AS YOU LIST—first acted on May 7, 1631, the chief parts being filled by Joseph Taylor (Antiochus), John Lowin (Flaminius), and Thomas Pollard (Berecinthius)—was long reckoned among the lost works of Massinger, being included in the list of fifty-five manuscript plays that were destroyed in

the last century by Warburton's cook. In 1844, however, the late Mr. T. Crofton Croker acquired a copy, possibly in the author's handwriting, and bearing the stage licence, signed by Sir Henry Herbert. Nearly the whole of one leaf had been torn out, and elsewhere damp and age had rendered some passages illegible. The play was reprinted for the Percy Society in 1849, but, unfortunately, with extreme carelessness; and, as the manuscript, notwithstanding diligent inquiry, cannot now be found, the true reading in several places is still uncertain.

Although the action is thrown back to the time of the Roman Republic, the plot is really founded on the adventures of a claimant to the throne of Portugal, whose wanderings and sufferings excited much interest in Europe about the beginning of the seventeenth century. He professed to be Don Sebastian, commonly believed to have been killed at the battle of Alcazar in 1578; and two pamphlets favouring his pretensions were published in London in 1602-3. Some incidents related in these tracts, which are reprinted in *The Harleian Miscellany*, vols. iv. and voluminished materials for Massinger's play. This will sufficiently explain the words of the prologue: "A late and sad example."





So far our author is from arrogance That he craves pardon for his ignorance In story. If you find what's Roman here. Grecian, or Asiatic, draw too near A late and sad example, 'tis confessed He's but an English scholar at his best, A stranger to cosmography, and may err In the countries' names, the shape and character Of the persons he presents. Yet he is bold In me to promise, be it new or old, The tale is worth the hearing; and may move Compassion, perhaps deserve your love And approbation. He dares not boast His pains and care, or what books he hath tossed And turned to make it up. The rarity Of the events in this strange history. Now offered to you, by his own confession, Must make it good, and not his weak expression. You sit his judges, and like judges be From favour to his cause, or malice, free; Then, whether he hath hit the white or missed. As the title speaks, Believe you as you list.





ANTIOCHUS, King of the Lower Asia. TITUS FLAMINIUS, Roman Ambassador at Carthage. LENTULUS, Successor of FLAMINIUS at Carthage. METELLUS. Proconsul of Lusitania. MARCELLUS, Proconsul of Sicily. AMILCAR, Prince of the Carthaginian Senate. HANNO. Carthaginian Senators. ASDRUBAL, CARTHALO. PRUSIAS. King of Bithynia. PHILOXENUS, his Minister and Tutor. BERECINTHIUS, a Flamen of Cybele. 1st Merchant. 2nd Merchant, former Subjects of ANTIOCHUS. 3rd Merchant. CALISTUS. Freedmen of FLAMINIUS. DEMETRIUS. TITUS, a Spy in the service of FLAMINIUS. CHRYSALUS, Servants of ANTIOCHUS. SYRUS. GETA. SEMPRONIUS, a Captain. A Stoic Philosopher.

Queen of PRUSIAS.
CORNELIA, Wife of MARCELLUS.
A Courtezan.
A Moorish Waiting-woman.

A Jailor.

SCENE—CARTHAGE, BITHYNIA, CALLIPOLIS, and SYRACUSE.

Senators, Captain, Officers, Guards, Attendants, &c.





BELIEVE AS YOU LIST.

ACT THE FIRST.

SCENE I .- The neighbourhood of Carthage.

Enter Antiochus and a Stoic Philosopher.

TOIC. You are now in sight of Carthage, that great city,

Which, in her empire's vastness, rivals Rome

At her proud height; two hours will bring you thither.

Make use of what you have learned in your long travels,
And from the golden principles read to you
In the Athenian Academy, stand resolved
For either fortune. You must now forget
The contemplations of a private man,
And put in action that which may comply
With the majesty of a monarch.

Ant. How that title,

Ant. How that title,
That glorious attribute of majesty,
That troublesome though most triumphant robe
Designed me in my birth, which I have worn
With terror and astonishment to others,
Mass, II.

Affrights me now! O memory, memory
Of what I was once, when the Eastern world
With wonder, in my May of youth, looked on me;
Ambassadors of the most potent kings,
With noble emulation, contending
To court my friendship, their fair daughters offered
As pledges to assure it, with all pomp
And circumstance of glory; Rome herself,
And Carthage, emulous whose side I should
Confirm in my protection! O remembrance!
With what ingenious cruelty and tortures,
Out of a due consideration of
My present low and desperate condition,
Dost thou afflict me now!

Stoic. You must oppose (For so the Stoic discipline commands you) That wisdom, with your patience fortified, Which holds dominion over fate, against The torrent of your passion.

Ant. I should,

I do confess I should, if I could drink up That river of forgetfulness poets dream of: But still in dreadful forms, (philosophy wanting Power to remove them,) all those innocent spirits. Borrowing again their bodies, gashed with wounds. Which strowed Achaia's bloody plains, and made Rivulets of gore, appear to me, exacting A strict account of my ambition's folly. For the exposing of twelve thousand souls. Who fell that fatal day, to certain ruin: Neither the counsel of the Persian king Prevailing with me, nor the grave advice Of my wise enemy, Marcus Scaurus, hindering My desperate enterprise, too late repented. Methinks I now look on my butchered army-Stoic. This is mere melancholy.

Ant. O, 'tis more, sir;

Here, there, and everywhere they do pursue me. The genius of my country, made a slave, Like a weeping mother, seems to kneel before me, Wringing her manacled hands; the hopeful youth And bravery of my kingdom, in their pale And ghastly looks, lamenting that they were Too soon by my means forced from their sweet being; Old ... sper with his fierce beams nour ... e in vain Their olives and Trained up in all delights, or sacred to The chaste Diana's rites, compelled to bow to The soldier's lusts, or at an outcry sold Under the spear 1 like beasts, to be spurned and trod on By their proud mistresses, the Roman matrons!-O, sir, consider then if it can be In the constancy of a Stoic to endure What now I suffer.

Stoic. Two and twenty years
Travelling o'er the world, you have paid the forfeit
Of this engagement; shed a sea of tears
In your sorrow for it; and now, being called from
The rigour of a strict philosopher's life
By the cries of your poor country, you are bound
With an obedient cheerfulness to follow
The path that you are entered in, which will
Guide you out of a wilderness of horror
To the flourishing plains of safety, the just gods
Smoothing the way before you.

Ant. Though I grant
That all impossibilities are easy
To their omnipotence, give me leave to fear
The more than doubtful issue. Can it fall
In the compass of my hopes, the lordly Romans,
So long possessed of Asia, their plea
Made good by conquest, and that ratified

¹ An "outcry" is an auction. In ancient Rome a spear was set up, beneath which the goods were sold.

With their religious authority,
The propagation of the commonwealth,
To whose increase they are sworn to, will e'er part with
A prey so precious, and dearly purchased?
A tigress circled with her famished whelps
Will sooner yield a lamb, snatched from the flock,
To the dumb oratory of the ewe
Than Rome restore one foot of earth that may
Diminish her vast empire.

Stoic. In her will,

This may be granted; but you have a title So strong and clear that there's no colour left To varnish Rome's pretences. Add this, sir: The Asian princes, warned by your example, And yet unconquered, never will consent That such a foul example of injustice Shall, to the scandal of the present age, Hereafter be recorded. They in this Are equally engaged with you, and must, Though not in love to justice, for their safety, In policy assist, guard, and protect you. And you may rest assured neither the king Of Parthia, the Gauls, nor big-boned Germans, Nor this great Carthage, grown already iealous Of Rome's encroaching empire, will cry aim 1 To such an usurpation, which must Take from their own security. Besides. Your mother was a Roman; for her sake, And the families from which she is derived, You must find favour.

Ant. For her sake! Alas, sir,
Ambition knows no kindred; "right and lawful"
Was never yet found as a marginal note
In the black book of profit. I am sunk
Too low to be buoyed up, it being held
A foolish weakness and disease in statists,

Give encouragement; a term of archery,

In favour of a weak man, to provoke Such as are mighty. The imperious waves Of my calamities have already fallen ll unravel 1 Exeunt all but Antiochus. opes despair with sable wings ore my head; the gold with which us furnished me to supply my wants . . . made my first appearance like myself s disloyal villains ravished from me. Wretch that I was to tempt their abject minds With such a purchase!² Can I, in this weed, And without gold to fee an advocate To plead my royal title, nourish hope Of a recovery? Forlorn majesty, Wanting the outward gloss and ceremony To give it lustre, meets no more respect Than knowledge with the ignorant. Ha! what is Contained in this waste paper? 'Tis endorsed "To the no-king Antiochus"; and subscribed "No more thy servant, but superior, Chrysalus," What am I fallen to? There is something writ more. Why this small piece of silver? What I read may Reveal the mystery:--" Forget thou wert ever Called King Antiochus. With this charity I enter thee a beggar." Too tough heart. Will nothing break thee? O that now I stood On some high pyramid, from whence I might Be seen by the whole world, and with a voice Louder than thunder pierce the ears of proud And secure greatness with the true relation

¹ Page 2 of the manuscript ended here; the second leaf, containing about 120 lines, was almost wholly missing. From the few prefixes and detached words and syllables remaining, and from the following speech, it may be gathered that Chrysalus, Syrus, and Geta, servants of Antiochus, come upon the scene, and despoil him of his money, jewels, and rich garments.

² Booty.

Of my remarkable story, that my fall
Might not be fruitless, but still live the great
Example of man's frailty. I that was
Born and bred up a king, whose frown or smile
Spake death or life, my will a law, my person
Environed with an army, now exposed
To the contempt and scorn of my own slave,
Who in his pride, as a god compared with me,
Bids me become a beggar! But complaints
Are weak and womanish: I will, like a palm-tree,¹
Grow under my huge weight; nor shall the fear
Of death or torture that dejection bring,
To make me live or die less than a king.

[Exit.



SCENE II.—A Street in Carthage.

Enter Berecinthius, with three petitions, and three Merchants of Asia.

1st Mer. We are grown so contemptible he disdains To give us hearing.

2nd Mer. Keeps us off at such distance, And with his Roman gravity declines Our suit for conference, as with much more ease We might make our approaches to the Parthian, Without a present, than work him to have A feeling of our grievances.

3rd Mer. A statesman!
The devil, I think, who only knows him truly,
Can give his character. When he is to determine
A point of justice, his words fall in measure
Like plummets of a clock, observing time
And just proportion.

1st Mer. But when he is

¹ The palm-tree was supposed to grow more vigorously whweights were hung on the branches.

To speak in any cause concerns himself, Or Rome's republic, like a gushing torrent, Not to be stopped in its full course, his reasons, Delivered like a second Mercury, Break in, and bear down whatsoever is Opposed against them.

2nd Mer. When he smiles, let such Beware as have to do with him, for then, Sans doubt, he's bent to mischief.

Bere. As I am

Cybele's flamen (whose most sacred image,
Drawn thus in pomp,¹ I wear upon my breast),
I am privileged, nor is it in his power
To do me wrong; and he shall find I can
Think, and aloud too, when I am not at
Her altar kneeling. Mother of the gods! what is he?
At his best but a patrician of Rome,
His name Titus Flaminius; and speak mine,
Berecinthius, arch-flamen to Cybele,
It makes as great a sound.

3rd Mer. True; but his place, sir, And the power it carries in it, as Rome's legate, Gives him pre-eminence o'er you.

Bere. Not an atom.

When moral honesty and jus gentium fail
To lend relief to such as are oppressed,
Religion must use her strength. I am perfect
In these notes you gave me. Do they contain at full
Your grievances and losses?

1st Mer. Would they were As well redressed, as they are punctually Delivered to you.

Bere. Say no more; they shall, And to the purpose.

and Mer. Here he comes.

Bere. Have at him!

¹ Seated in a chariot drawn by lions.

Enter Flaminius, Calistus, and Demetrius.

Flam. Blow away these troublesome and importunate drones;

I have embryons of greater consequence In my imaginations, to which I must give life and form, not now vouchsafing To hear their idle buzzes.

2nd Mer. Note you that?

Bere. Yes, I do note it; but the flamen is not So light to be removed by a groom's breath: I must and will speak, and I thus confront him.

Flam. But that the image of the goddess which Thou wear'st upon thy breast protects thy rudeness, It had forfeited thy life. Dost thou not tremble When an incensed Roman frowns?

Bere. I see

No Gorgon in your face.

Flam. Must I speak in thunder Before thou wilt be awed?

Bere. I rather look

For reverence from thee, if thou respectest
The goddess' power, and in her name I charge thee
To give me hearing. If these lions roar,
For thy contempt of her expect a vengeance
Suitable to thy pride.

Flam. Thou shalt o'ercome; There's no contending with thee.

3rd Mer. Hitherto

The flamen hath the better.

1st Mer. But I fear

He will not keep it.

Bere. Know you these men's faces?

Flam. Yes, yes, poor Asiatics.

Bere. Poor! they are made so

By your Roman tyranny and oppression.

If arrogantly you presume to take The Roman government, your goddess cannot Give privilege to it, and you'll find and feel 'Tis little less than treason, flamen.

Bere. Truth

In your pride is so interpreted: these poor men, These Asiatic merchants, whom you look on With such contempt and scorn, are they to whom Rome owes her bravery; their industrious search To the farthest Ind, with danger to themselves Brings home security to you unthankful; Your magazines are from their sweat supplied; The legions with which you fright the world Are from their labour paid; the Tyrian fish, Whose blood dyes your proud purple in the colour Distinguishing the senator's garded robe From a plebeian habit, their nets catch; The diamond hewed from the rock, the pearl Dived for into the bottom of the sea. The sapphire, ruby, jacinth, amber, coral, And all rich ornaments of your Latian dames Are Asian spoils. They are indeed the nurses 2 And sinews of your war, and without them What could you do?—Your handkercher——

Flam. Wipe your face;

You are in a sweat: the weather's hot; take heed Of melting your fat kidneys.

Bere. There's no heat

Can thaw thy frozen conscience.

Flam. To it again now; I am not moved.

Bere. I see it. If you had
The feeling of a man you would not suffer
These men, who have deserved so well, to sink
Under the burthen of their wrongs. If they

¹ Outward splendour.

² Perhaps "nerves" is the true reading.

Are subjects, why enjoy they not the right And privilege of subjects? What defence Can you allege for your connivance to The Carthaginian galleys, who forced from them The prize they took, belonging not to them Nor their confederates?

Flam. With reverence

To your so sacred goddess, I must tell you You are grown presumptuous; and, in your demands, A rash and saucy flamen. Meddle with Your juggling mysteries, and keep in awe Your gelded ministers. Shall I yield account Of what I do to you?

1st Mer. He smiles in frown. 2nd Mer. Nay, then, I know what follows. 3rd Mer. In his looks

A tempest rises.

Flam. How dare you complain,
Or in a look repine? Our government
Hath been too easy, and the yoke which Rome
In her accustomed lenity imposed
Upon your stubborn necks begets contempt.
Hath our familiar commerce and trading,
Almost as with our equals, taught you to
Dispute our actions? Have you quite forgot
What we are, and you ought to be? Shall vassals
Capitulate with their lords?

2nd Mer. I vow he speaks In his own dialect.

Flam. 'Tis too frequent, wretches,
To have the vanquished hate the conqueror,
And from us needs no answer. Do not I know
How odious the lordly Roman is
To the despised Asian; and that
To gain your liberty you would pull down
The altars of your gods, and, like the giants,
Raise a new war 'gainst Heaven?

1st Mer. Terrible.

Flam. Did you not give assurance of this, when Giddy Antiochus died? and, rather than Accept us guardians of your orphan kingdom, When the victorious Scaurus with his sword Pleaded the Roman title, with our vote, You did exclaim against us as the men That sought to lay an unjust gripe upon Your territories; ne'er remembering that In the brass-leaved book of fate it was set down The earth should know no sovereign but Rome: Yet you repined, and rather chose to pay Homage and fealty to the Parthian, The Egyptian Ptolemy, or indeed any, Than bow unto the Roman.

Bere. And perhaps

Our government in them had been more gentle, Since yours is insupportable.

Flam. If thou wert not

In a free state, the tongue that belcheth forth

These blasphemies should be seared.—For you, presume
not

[To the Merchants.

To trouble me hereafter. If you do,
You shall with horror to your proudest hopes
Feel really that we have iron hammers
To pulverize rebellion, and that
We dare use you as slaves.—Be you, too, warned, sir,

[To Berecinthius.

Since this is my last caution. I have seen A murmurer, like yourself, for his attempting To raise sedition in Rome's provinces, Hanged up in such a habit.

[Exeunt Flaminius, Calistus, and Demetrius.

Bere. I have took

Poison in at my ears, and I shall burst If it come not up in my reply.

1st Mer. He's gone, sir.

Bere. He durst not stay me. If he had, had found I would not swallow my spittle.

2nd Mer. As we must

Our wrongs and our disgraces.

3rd Mer. O, the wretched

Condition that we live in; made the anvil

On which Rome's tyrannies are shaped and fashioned!

1st Mer. But our calamities there's nothing left us

Which we can call our own.

2nd Mer. Our wives and daughters

Lie open to their lusts, and such as should be Our judges dare not right us.

3rd Mer. O Antiochus!

Thrice happy were the men whom fate appointed

To fall with thee in Achaia.

2nd Mer. They have set

A period to their miseries.

1st Mer. We survive

To linger out a tedious life; and death-

We call in vain what flies us.

Bere. If religion

Be not a mere word only, and the gods

Are just, we shall find a delivery When least expected.

1st Mer. 'Tis beyond all hope, sir.

Enter Antiochus.

Bere. Ha! who is this?

Ant. Your charity to a poor man,

As you are Asians.

2nd Mer. Pray you observe him.

3rd Mer. I am amazed!

ist Mer. I thunderstruck!

Bere. What are you?

Ant. The King Antiochus.

2nd Mer. Or some deity

That hath assumed his shape?

Pere. He only differs

he colour of his hair, and age.

Int. Consider

at two and twenty years of misery

work upon a wretch, that long time spent too ler distant zeniths, and the change you look on

I not deserve your wonder.

st Mer. His own voice.

nd Mer. His very countenance, his forehead, eyes.

rd Mer. His nose, his very lip.

Pere. His stature, speech.

st Mer. His very hand, leg, and foot, on the left side rter than on the right

nd Mer. The moles upon

face and hands.

rd Mer. The scars caused by his hurts

his right brow and head.

Pere. The hollowness

is under-jaw, occasioned by the loss

, tooth pulled out by his chirurgion.

t Mer. To confirm us,

us your chirurgion's name, when he served you.

'nt. You all knew him,

do you: Demetrius Castor.

nd Mer. Strange!

rd Mer. But most infallibly true.

'ere. So many marks

firming us, we owe, in our distrust,

crifice for his safety.

it Mer. May Rome smile!

nd Mer. And Asia once more flourish!

rd Mer. You the means, sir!

'nt. Silence your shouts: I will give stronger proofs

n these exterior marks when I appear

re the Carthaginian senators,

h whom I have held more intelligence

I The reprint has "faine."

And private counsels than with all the kings Of Asia or Afric: I'll amaze them With the wonder of my story.

Bere. Yet, until
Your majesty be furnished like yourself,
To a neighbour village——

Ant. Where you please. The omen Of this encounter promises a good issue: And, our gods pleased, oppressed Asia, When aid is least expected, may shake off The insulting Roman bondage, and in me Gain and enjoy her pristine liberty.

[Exer





ACT THE SECOND.

SCENE I.—Carthage. A Room in the House of Flaminius.

Enter FLAMINIUS and CALISTUS.

LAM. A man that styles himself Antiochus, say you?

Cal. Not alone styled so, but as such received

And honoured by the Asians.

Flam. Two impostors,

For their pretension to that fatal name,

Already have paid dear; nor shall this third Escape unpunished.

Cal. 'Twill exact your wisdom
With an Herculean arm (the cause requires it)
To strangle this new monster in the birth.
For, on my life, he hath delivered to
The credulous multitude such reasons why
They should believe he is the true Antiochus
That, with their gratulations for his safety,
And wishes for his restitution, many
Offer the hazard of their lives and fortunes
To do him service.

Flam. Poor seduced fools!

However, 'tis a business of such weight

I must not sleep in't. Is he now in Carthage?

Cal. No, sir; removed to a grange some two miles off;

And there the malcontents, and such whose wants

With forfeited credits make them wish a change

Of the Roman government, in troops flock to him, Flam. With one puff—thus—I will disperse and scatter This heap of dust. Here, take my ring: by this Entreat my friend Amilcar to procure A mandate from the Carthaginian senate For the apprehension of this impostor, And with all possible speed. [Exit Calistus.] However I know

The rumour of Antiochus' death uncertain, It much imports the safety of great Rome To have it so believed.

Enter DEMETRIUS.

Dem. There wait without
Three fellows I ne'er saw before, who much
Importune their access. They swear they bring
Business along with them that deserves your ear,
It being for the safety of the republic,
And quiet of the provinces. They are full
Of gold; I have felt their bounty.

Flam. Such are welcome;

Give them admittance. [Exit DEMETRIUS.] In this various play

Of state and policy, there's no property But may be useful.

Re-enter Demetrius, with Chrysalus, Geta, and Syrus.

Now, friends, what design

Carries you to me?

Geta. My most honoured lord——
Syr. May it please your mightiness——
Flam. Let one speak for all:

I cannot brook this discord.

Chrys. As our duties

Command us, noble Roman, having discovered A dreadful danger, with the nimble wings Of speed, approaching to the state of Rome,

: hold it fit you should have the first notice, at you may have the honour to prevent it. Flam. I thank you: but instruct me what form wears ie danger that you speak of. Chrys. It appears the shape of King Antiochus. Flam. How! is he ose from the dead? Chrys. Alas! he never died, sir; e at this instant lives; the more the pity should survive, to the disturbance of me's close and politic counsels, in the getting ssession of his kingdom, which he would Cover (simple as he is) the plain d downright way of justice. Flam. Very likely. t how are you assured this is Antiochus, d not a counterfeit? Answer that. Chrys. I served him the Achaian war, where, his army routed, d the warlike Romans hot in their execution. , shun their fury he and his minions were aving cast off their glorious armour) forced hide themselves as dead, with fear and horror, nong the slaughtered carcases. I lay by them, ed rose with them at midnight. Then retiring ato their ships, we sailed to Corinth; thence India, where he spent many years ith their gymnosophists. There I waited on him, 1d came thence with him; but, at length, tired out ith an unrewarded service, and affrighted my imagination with the dangers, r rather certain ruins, in pursuing is more than desperate fortunes, we forsook him. Flam. A wise and politic fellow! Give me thy hand. hou art sure of this?

Chrys. As of my life.

1

Flam. And this is

Known only to you three?

Chrys. There's no man lives else

To witness it.

Flam. The better: but inform me,

And, as you would oblige me to you, truly,

Where did you leave him?

Syr. For the payment of

Our long and tedious travel, we made bold To rifle him.

Flam. Good!

Geta. And, so disabling him

Of means to claim his right, we hope despair

Hath made him hang himself.

Flam. It had been safer

If you had done it for him. But, as 'tis,

You are honest men. You have revealed this secret

To no man but myself?

Chrys. Nor ever will.

Flam. [Aside.] I will take order that you never shall.-

And, since you have been true unto the state,

I'll keep you so. I am e'en now considering

How to advance you.

Chrys. What a pleasant smile

His honour throws upon us!

Geta. We are made.

Flam. And now 'tis found out. That no danger may

Come near you, should the robbery be discovered, Which the Carthaginian laws, you know, call death,

My house shall be your sanctuary.

Syr. There's a favour!

Flam. And that our entertainment come not short

Of your deservings, I commit you to

My secretary's care.—See that they want not,

Among their other delicates-

Chrys. Mark that!

Flam. [Aside to Demetrius.] A sublimated pill of For sugar to their wine. [mercure]

Dem. I understand you.

Flam. Attend these honest men, as if they were Made Roman citizens; and be sure, at night, I may see them well-lodged.—Dead in the vault, I mean: Their gold is thy reward.

[Aside to Demetrius.

Dem. Believe it done, sir.

Flam. And when 'tis known how I have recompensed (Though you were treacherous to your own king)
The service done to Rome, I hope that others
Will follow your example. Enter, friends;
I'll so provide that when you next come forth
You shall not fear who sees you.

Chrys. Was there ever So sweet a tempered Roman?

[Exeunt all but FLAMINIUS. Flam. You shall find it. Ha! what's the matter? Do I feel a sting here, For what is done to these poor snakes? My reason Will easily remove it. That assures me, That, as I am a Roman, to preserve And propagate her empire, though they were My father's sons, they must not live to witness Antiochus is in being. The relation The villain made, in every circumstance Appeared so like to truth, that I began To feel an inclination to believe What I must have no faith in. By my birth I am bound to serve thee, Rome, and what I do Necessity of state compels me to. [Exit.



SCENE II.—The Senate Hall in Carthage.

Enter Amilcar, Hanno, Asdrubal, Carthalo, Senators, and Attendants.

Amil. To steer a middle course 'twixt these extremes Exacts our serious care.

Han. I know not which way I should incline.

Amil. The reasons this man urges, To prove himself Antiochus, are so pregnant, And the attestation of his countrymen In every circumstance so punctual, As not to show him our compassion were A kind of barbarous cruelty.

Car. Under correction.

Give me leave to speak my thoughts. We are bound to weigh

Not what we should do in the point of honour, Swayed by our pity, but what may be done With the safety of the state.

Asd. Which is, indeed. The main consideration; for, grant This is the true Antiochus, without danger, Nay, almost certain ruin to ourselves, We cannot yield him favour or protection.

Han. We have feared and felt the Roman power, an

Expect, if we provoke him, a return Not limited to the quality of the offence, But left at large to his interpretation, Which seldom is confined. Who knows not that The tribute Rome receives from Asia is Her chief supportance? other provinces Hardly defray the charge by which they are Kept in subjection. They, in name, perhaps, Render the Roman terrible; but his strength And power to do hurt, without question, is Derived from Asia. And can we hope, then. That such as lend their aids to force it from them Will be held for less than capital enemies, And as such pursued and punished?

Car. I could wish

We were well rid of him.

Asd. The surest course to deliver him into the hands of bold Flaminius.

Han. And so oblige come, for a matchless benefit.

Amil. If my power Vere absolute, as 'tis but titular. and that confined too, being by you elected rince of the Senate only for a year, would oppose your counsels, and not labour With arguments to confute them; vet, however, Though a fellow-patriot with you, let it not savour If usurpation, though in my opinion cross your abler judgments. Call to mind Dur grandsires' glories (though not seconded Vith a due imitation), and remember Vith what expense of coin, as blood, they did Maintain their liberty, and kept the scale If empire even 'twixt Carthage and proud Rome; and, though the Punic faith is branded by Jur enemies, our confederates and friends Cound it as firm as fate; and seventeen kings,)ur feodaries, our strengths upon the sea Exceeding theirs, and our land soldiers n number far above theirs, though inferior n arms and discipline (to our shame we speak it); and then for our cavallery, in the champaign 1 Tow often have they brake their piles, and routed heir coward legions!

Han. This, I grant, sir, is not to be contradicted.

Amil. If so, as we find it n our records, and that this state hath been he sanctuary to which mighty kings lave fled to for protection, and found it, et it not to posterity be told

¹ Flat, open country.

That we so far degenerate from the race We are derived as, in a servile fear Of the Roman power, in a kind to play the bawds To their ravenous lusts, by yielding up a man, That wears the shape of our confederate, To their devouring gripe, whose strong assurance Of our integrity and impartial doom Hath made this seat his altar.

Car. I join with you In this opinion, but no farther than It may be done with safety.

Asd. In his ruins

To bury ourselves, you needs must grant to be
An inconsiderate pity, no way suiting
With a wise man's reason.

Car. Let us face to face
Hear the accuser and accused, and then,
As either's arguments work on us, determine
As the respect of our security
Or honour shall invite us.

Amil. [To an Attendant.] From the Senate, Entreat the Roman, Titus Flaminius, To assist us with his counsel.

Han. And let the prisoner
Be brought into the court.

Amil. The gods of Carthage
Direct us to the right way!

Exit Attendar

Enter FLAMINIUS.

Asd. With what gravity
He does approach us!
Car. As he would command,
Not argue his desires.
Amil. May it please your lordship
To take your place?
Flam. In civil courtesy,

As I am Titus Flaminius, I may thank you;

t, sitting here as Rome's ambassador, which you are honoured,) to instruct you in r will (which you are bound to serve, not argue), aust not borrow—that were poor—but take, a tribute due to her that's justly styled e mistress of this earthly globe, the boldness reprehend your slow progression in ing her greatness right. That she believes, me, that this impostor was suborned the conquered Asiatics, in their hopes future liberty, to usurp the name dead Antiochus, should satisfy ur scrupulous doubts; all proofs beyond this being rely superfluous. Car. My lord, my lord, u trench too much upon us. Asd. We are not 1 by an implicit faith. Han. Nor, though we would serve Rome's amity, must not yield up e freedom of our wills and judgments to it or condemn as we shall be appointed her imperious pleasure. Car. We confess not. r ever will, she hath a power above us: rthage is still her equal. 4mil. If you can we this man an impostor, he shall suffer he deserves; if not, you shall perceive u have no empire here. Yan. Call in the prisoner; en, as you please, confront him. Flam. This neglect reafter will be thought on. 4mil. We shall stand e danger howsoever. When we did, ; cause unheard, at your request commit

This king or this impostor, you received More favour than we owed you.

Officer. [Within.] Room for the prisoner.

Enter Antiochus, habited like a king, Berecinthius, the three Merchants, and a Guard.

Ant. This shape that you have put me in suits ill With the late austereness of my life.

Bere. Fair gloss

Wrongs not the richest stuff, but sets it off; And let your language, high and stately, speak you, As you were born, a king.

Ant. Health to the Senate!
We do suppose your duties done; sit still.
Titus Flaminius, we remember you:
As you are a public minister from Rome
You may sit covered.

Flam. How!

Ant. But as we are

A potent king, in whose court you have waited And sought our favour, you betray your pride, And the more than saucy rudeness of your manners. A bended knee, remembering what we are, Much better would become you.

Flam. Ha!

Ant. We said it;

But fall from our own height to hold discourse With a thing so far beneath us.

Bere. Admirable!

Amil. The Roman looks as he had seen the wolf. How his confidence awes him!

Asd. Be he what he will,

He bears himself like a king; and I must tell you I am amazed too.

Ant. Are we so transformed

 $^{^{1}\} The\ sight\ of\ a\ wolf\ was\ supposed\ to\ take\ away\ the\ power\ o\ f$ speech.

In what we were, since our disaster in e Grecian enterprise, that you gaze upon us some strange prodigy ne'er seen in Afric? atiochus speaks to you, the King Antiochus, d challenges a retribution in s entertainment of the love and favours tended to you. Call to memory ur true friend and confederate, who refused his respect to you the proffered amity the Roman people. Hath this vile enchanter vironed me with such thick clouds in your oneous belief, from his report at I was long since dead, that, being present, e beams of majesty cannot break through e foggy mists raised by his wicked charms, lend you light to know me? I cite you, Lord Amilcar—now I look on you prince of the Senate, but, when you were less, ave seen you in my court, assisted by we Hanno, Asdrubal, and Carthalo, e pillars of the Carthaginian greatness: now you all. Antiochus ne'er 'deserved be thus slighted. 4mil. Not so; we in you ok on the figure of the King Antiochus, , without stronger proofs than yet you have duced to make us think so, cannot hear you as a man suspected. Int. Of what guilt? Zam. Of subornation and imposture. Int. Silence s fellow's saucy tongue. O majesty! w soon a short eclipse hath made thy splendour, t had never shined on these, forgotten! you refuse to hear me as a king; ly not yet, in justice, what you grant common men,—free liberty without

His interruption (having heard what he Objects against me) to acquit myself Of that which, in his malice, I am charged with.

Amil. You have it.

Ant. As my present fortune wills me, I thank your goodness. Rise, thou cursed agent Of mischief, and accumulate in one heap All engines by the devil thy tutor fashioned To ruin innocence; in poison steep Thy bloodied tongue, and let thy words, as full Of bitterness as malice, labour to Seduce these noble hearers; make me, in Thy coined accusation, guilty of Such crimes whose names my innocence ne'er knew, I'll stand the charge; and when that thou hast shot All arrows in thy quiver, feathered with Slanders, and aimed with cruelty, in vain, My truth, though yet concealed, the mountains of Thy glossed fictions in her strength removed, Shall in a glorious shape appear, and show Thy painted mistress, Falsehood, when stripped bare Of borrowed and adulterate colours, in Her own shape and deformity.

Bere. I am ravished!

1st Mer. O more than royal sir!

Amil. Forbear.

2nd Mer. The monster Prepares to speak.

Bere. And still that villainous smile Ushers his following mischiefs.

Flam. Since the assurance,
From one of my place, quality, and rank,
Is not sufficient with you to suppress
This bold seductor, to acquit our state
From the least tyrannous imputation,
I will forget awhile I am a Roman,
Whose arguments are warranted by his sword,

not filed 1 from his tongue. This creature here, t styles himself Antiochus, I know an apostata Tew, though others say is a cheating Greek called Pseudolus, keeps a whore in Corinth. But I'll come eal proofs; reports and rumours being ects unsuitable with my gravity speak, or yours to hear. 'Tis most apparent King Antiochus was slain in Greece; body, at his subjects' suit, delivered; ashes from the funeral pile raked up, in a golden urn preserved, and kept he royal monument of the Asian kings,— 1 was the clemency of Marcus Scaurus, Roman conqueror, whose triumph was ed only with his statue. But suppose had survived (which is impossible) it fall in the compass of your reason t this impostor (if he were the man ch he with impudence affirms he is) ıld have wandered two and twenty tedious years : a vagabond o'er the world, and not have tried ie's mercy as a suppliant? an. Shrewd suspicions. lam. A mason of Callipolis, heretofore, umed as far, and was, like this impostor, lavish Asians followed: and a second. retan of a base condition, did ntain the like. All ages have been furnished 1 such as have usurped upon the names persons of dead princes. Is it not vident as the day this wretch, instructed hese poor Asians (sworn enemies he majesty of Rome), but personates dead Antiochus, hired to it by these stir up a rebellion, which they call

¹ Polished, smoothly turned.

Delivery or restoring? And will you, Who, for your wisdom, are esteemed the sages And oracles of Afric, meddle in The affairs of this affronter, which no monarch Less rash and giddy than Antiochus was Would undertake?

Ant. Would I were dead indeed, Rather than hear this, living!

Flam. I confess

He hath some marks of King Antiochus, but The most of them artificial. Then observe What kind of men they are that do abet him: Proscribed and banished persons; the ringleader Of this seditious troop a turbulent flamen,

Grown fat with idleness-

Bere. That's I.

Flam. And puffed up

With the wind of his ambition.

Bere. With reverence to

Amil. your goddess. She

Defends you from a whipping.

Han. Take him off;

He does disturb the court.

Bere. I shall find a place yet Where I will roar my wrongs out.

[Exeunt Officers with BERECINTHIU

Flam. As you have,

In the removing of that violent fool, Given me a taste of your severity, Make it a feast, and perfect your great justice In the surrendering up this false pretender To the correction of the law, and let him Undergo the same punishment which others Have justly suffered that preceded him In the same machination.

Ant. As you wish A noble memory to after times, Reserve one ear for my defence, and let not-For your own wisdoms let not—that belief This subtle fiend would plant be rooted in you Till you have heard me. Would you know the truth, And real cause, why poor Antiochus hath So long concealed himself? Though in the opening A wound, in some degree by time closed up, shall pour scalding oil and sulphur in it, will, in the relation of my To be lamented story, punctually Confute my false accuser. Pray you conceive, is far as your compassion will permit, Iow great the grief and agony of my soul was, Vhen I considered that the violence If my ill-reined ambition had made Greece 'he fatal sepulchre of so many thousands If brave and able men, that might have stood n opposition for the defence If mine own kingdom, and a ready aid or my confederates; after which rout, and my retreat in a disguise to Athens, 'he shame of this disgrace, though I then had 'he forehead of this man, would have deterred me rom being ever seen where I was known; and such was then my resolution.

Amil. This granted, whither went you?

Ant. As a punishment
imposed upon myself, and equal to
Iy wilful folly, giving o'er the world,
went into a desert.

Flam. This agrees
Vith the dead slaves' report; but I must contemn it.

[Aside.

Amil. What drew you from that austere life?

Asd. Clear that.

Ant. The counsel of a grave philosopher Wrought on me to make known myself the man That I was born; and, of all potentates In Afric, to determine of the truth Of my life and condition, I preferred The commonwealth of Carthage.

Flam. As the fittest

To be abused.

Ant. This is not fair.

Amil. My lord,

If not entreat, I must command your silence, Or absence, which you please.

Flam. So peremptory!

Ant. To vindicate myself from all suspicion Of forgery and imposture, in this scroll, Writ with my royal hand, you may peruse A true memorial of all circumstances, Answers, despatches, doubts, and difficulties Between myself and your ambassadors, Sent to negotiate with me.

Amil. Fetch the records.

Exit Attendan

Ant. 'Tis my desire you should; truth seeks th light:

And, when you have compared them, if you find them In any point of moment differing,

Re-enter Attendant with the Book of Records.

Conclude me such a one as this false man Presents me to you. But, if you perceive Those private passages, in my cabinet argued, And, but to your ambassadors and myself, Concealed from all men, in each point agreeing, Judge if a cheating Greek, a Pseudolus, Or an apostata Jew, could e'er arrive at Such deep and weighty secrets.

Han. To a syllable They are the same.

Amil. It cannot be but this is ie true Antiochus. Flam. A magician rather, nd hath the spirit of Python. Car. These are toys.1 Ant. You see he will omit no trifle, that is malice can lay hold of, to divert our love and favour to me. Now for my death, he firmest base on which he builds the strength his assertions, if you please to weigh it ith your accustomed wisdom, you'll perceive Had they meant fairly, is merely fabulous. 1d, as a truth, would have it so confirmed) the doubtful Asians, why did they not ffer the carcase they affirmed was mine) be viewed by such men as were interessed the great cause, that were bred up with me, id were familiar with the marks I carried on my body, and not rely upon or prisoners taken in the war, from whom, hope of liberty and reward, they drew th depositions as they knew would make r their dark ends? Was anything more easy an to suppose a body, and, that placed on solemn hearse, with funeral pomp to inter it a rich monument, and then proclaim 'his is the body of Antiochus, ag of the Lower Asia "? Flam. Rome's honour taxed in this of practice and corruption: hear no more. In your determinations,

[Exit.

ceive you as a king, since your relation th wrought so much upon us that we do

nsider what it is to hold and keep her

ur friend or enemy.

Amil. We wish we could

¹ Trivial objections.

Incline to that belief. But, since we cannot As such protect you but with certain danger, Until you are by other potent nations Proclaimed for such, our fitting caution Cannot be censured, though we do entreat You would elsewhere seek justice.

Ant. Where, when 'tis Frighted from you by power?

Amil. And yet take comfort.

Not all the threats of Rome shall force us to Deliver you: the short time that you stay In Carthage you are safe; no more a prisoner; You are enlarged; with full security Consult of your affairs. In what we may We are your friends.—Break up the court.

[Exeunt all but Antiochus and the three Merchanist Mer. Dear sir,

Take courage in your liberty; the world Lies open to you.

2nd Mer. We shall meet with comfort When most despaired of by us.

Ant. Never, never!

Poor men, though fallen, may rise; but kings like me, If once by fortune slaved, are ne'er set free. [Exeun





ACT THE THIRD.

SCENE I.—Carthage. A Room in the House of Flaminius.

Enter FLAMINIUS (with two letters), CALISTUS, and DEMETRIUS.



LAM. You gave him store of gold with the instructions

That I prescribed him?

Cal. Yes, my lord, and, on

The forfeiture of my credit with your honour,

Titus will do his parts, and dive into

Their deepest secrets.

Flam. Men of place pay dear For their intelligence; it eats out the profit Of their employment; but, in a design Of such weight, prodigality is a virtue. The fellow was of trust that you despatched To Rome with the packets?

Dem. Yes, sir; he flies, not rides. By this, if his access answer his care, He is upon return.

Flam. I am on the stage,
And if now, in the scene imposed upon me,
So full of change—nay, a mere labyrinth
Of politic windings—I show not myself
A Protean actor, varying every shape

Mass. II.

With the occasion, it will hardly poise
The expectation. I'll so place my nets
That, if this bird want wings to carry him
At one flight out of Afric, I shall catch him.
Calistus!

Cal. Sir.

Flam. Give these at Syracusa
To the proconsul Marcellus. Let another post
To Sardinia with these.—You have the picture
Of the impostor?

Dem. Drawn to the life, my lord.

Flam. Take it along with you. I have commanded, In the Senate's name, that they man out their galleys, And not to let one vessel pass without A strict examination; the sea Shall not protect him from me. I have charged too The garrisons, that keep the passages By land, to let none scape that come from Carthage, Without a curious search.

[Exit Calistus.]

Enter LENTULUS.

Len. [Speaking to one within.] I will excuse My visit without preparation; fear not.

Flam. Who have we here?

Len. When you have viewed me better You will resolve yourself.

Flam. My good lord Lentulus!

Len. You name me right. The speed that brought me As you see accoutred, and without a train [hither Suitable to my rank, may tell your lordship That the design admits no vacant time For compliment. Your advertisements have been read In open court; the consuls and the Senate Are full of wonder and astonishment At the relation; your care is much Commended, and will find a due reward, When what you have so well begun is ended.

In the meantime, with their particular thanks
They thus salute you. [Tenders a letter.] You shall find
there that

(Their good opinion of me far above My hopes or merits) they have appointed me Your successor in Carthage, and commit Unto your abler trust the prosecution Of this impostor.

Flam. As their creature ever I shall obey and serve them. I will leave My freedman to instruct you in the course Of my proceedings. You shall find him able And faithful, on my honour.

Len. I receive him

At his due value. Can you guess yet whither This creature tends? By some passengers I met I was told, howe'er the state denies to yield him To our dispose, they will not yet incense us By giving him protection.

Flam. Ere long,

I hope I shall resolve you.—To my wish!

Enter TITUS.

Here comes my true discoverer. Be brief, And labour not with circumstance to endear The service thou hast done me.

Tit. As your lordship

Commanded me, in this Carthaginian habit I made my first approaches, and delivered The gold was given me as a private present Sent from the Lord Amilcar for his viaticum To another country; for I did pretend I was his menial servant.

Flam. Very well.

Tit. 'Twas entertained almost with sacrifice, And I, as one most welcome, was admitted Into their turbulent counsel. Many means

Were there propounded, whither, and to whom, Their King Antiochus (for so they style him) Should fly for safety. One urged to the Parthian, A second into Egypt, and a third To the Batavian; but, in conclusion, The corpulent flamen, that would govern all, And in his nature would not give allowance To any proposition that was not The child of his own brain, resolved to carry Their May-game prince, covered with a disguise. To Prusias King of Bithynia. His opinion Carried it; and thither, without pause or stay, To thank my lord for his bounty, they are gone, Upon my certain knowledge, for I rid Two days and nights along, that I might not build Upon suppositions; by this they are At their journey's end.

Flam. With my thanks, there's thy reward.

[Giving money.

I will take little rest until I have Soured his sweet entertainment.—You have been In the court of this Prusias; of what temper is he?

Len. A well-disposed and noble gentleman, And very careful to preserve the peace And quiet of his subjects.

Flam. I shall find him
The apter to be wrought on. Do you know who is
His special favourite?

Len. One that was his tutor,
A seeming politician, and talks often;
The end of his ambition is to be
A gentleman of Rome.

Flam. I shall fit him, fear not. Your travel's ended; mine begins, and therefore I will take my leave. Formality of manners now is useless:

There to be a borneback

I long to be a-horseback.

Len. You have my wishes For a fair success.

Flam. My care shall not be wanting.

[Exeunt.



SCENE II .- Bithynia. Before the Palace.

Enter Antiochus and the three Merchants.

1st Mer. This tedious journey, from your majesty's Long discontinuance of riding hard, With weariness hath dulled your spirits.

2nd Mer. The flamen,

His corpulency considered, hath held out Beyond imagination.

3rd Mer. As often

As he rode down a hill I did expect The chining of his horse.

Ant. I wonder more

How mine sustained his burden, since the weight That sits on my more heavy heart would crack The sinews of an elephant.

2nd Mer. 'Tis said

That beast hath strength to carry six armed men In a turret on his back.

Ant. True; but the sorrow
Of a wretched and forsaken king like me
Is far more ponderous.

1st Mer. O, part not, sir,

From your own strength by yielding to despair.

I am most confident Berecinthius will,

From the great King Prusias—in his goodness great—Bring comfort to you.

Ant. I am prepared, however;

Lower I cannot fall.

[Flourish.

3rd Mer. Ha! these are signs
Of a glorious entertainment, not contempt!

Enter BERECINTHIUS.

Bere. Bear up, sir. I have done you simple service; I thank my eloquence and boldness for it.

When would a modest silent fool effect
What I have done? but such men are not born
For great employments. The fox that would confer
With a lion without fear must see him often.
O for a dozen of rubbers and a bath!
And yet I need no tub, since I drench myself
In mine own balsam.

1st Mer. Balsamum! it smells Like a tallow-chandler's shop.

Bere. Does it so? thou thin-gut!
Thou thing without moisture! But I have no time
To answer thee. The great king—by my means, sir,'
Ever remember that—in his own person,
With his fair consort and a gallant train,

[Flourish.]
Are come to entertain you.

Ant. Jove! if thou art
Pleased that it shall be so——

Bere. Change not you Jove's purpose In your slowness to receive it; in your carriage Express yourself. They come.

Enter PRUSIAS, his Queen, PHILOXENUS, and Attendants.

Pru. The strong assurance
You gave at Carthage to confirm you are
The King Antiochus (for so much from
My agent there I have heard) commands me to
Believe you are so; and however they,
Awed by the Roman greatness, durst not lend you
Aid or protection, in me you shall find
A surer guard: I stand on mine own bases,
Nor shall or threats or prayers deter me from
Doing a good deed in itself rewarded.
You are welcome to my bosom.

ut. All that yet 1 return you, sir, is thanks, expressed ars of joy, to find here that compassion i not forsook the earth. ueen. Alas, good king, / him ! u. This lady, sir, your servant, ents her duty to you. it. Pray you forgive me: mity, my too long rude companion, taught me, gracious madam, to forget Kisses her. ity and manners. veen. [Aside] I ne'er touched he king my husband's lips, and, as I live, isses very like him. u. Here is one e present to you for a knowing man olitic designs. But he is present, ould say more else. it. Your assistance, sir, aise a trod-down king will well become you. i. What man can do that is familiar with deep directions of Xenophon, ristotle's politics, besides own collections, which some prefer, with good reason, as they say, before them, highness may expect. w. We will at leisure ider of the manner and the means to restore you to your own. veen. And till then ose yourself in your own court. it. The gods ireties for the payment of this debt nd engaged! Your bounties overwhelm me.

Exeunt all but BERECINTHIUS and the

Flourish.

Merchants.

Bere. Ay, marry, this is as it should be! Ha! After these storms raised by this Roman devil, Titus Flaminius—you know whom I mean—Are we got into the port once. I must purge.

1.st Mer. Not without cause.

Bere. Or my increasing belly
Will metamorphose me into the shape
Of a great tortoise, and I shall appear
A cipher, a round man, or what you will.
Now jeer at my bulk, and spare not.

1st Mer. You are pleasant.

Bere. Farce thy lean ribs with hope, and thou wilt grow to

Another kind of creature. When our king is Restored, let me consider, as he must be, And I the principal means, I'll first grow rich, Infinite rich, and build a strange new temple To the goddess that I worship, and so bind her To prosper all my purposes.

2nd Mer. Be not rapt so.

Bere. Prithee, do not trouble me. First I will expel The Romans out of Asia; and, so breaking Their reputation in the world, we will Renew our league with Carthage; then draw to Our party the Egyptian Ptolemy, And great Arsaces' issue. I will be The general, and march to Rome, which taken, I'll fill proud Tiber with the carcases Of men, women, and children. Do not persuade me; I'll show no mercy.

3rd Mer. Have the power to hurt first.

Bere. Then by the senators, whom I'll use as horses,
I will be drawn in a chariot, made for my bulk,

In triumph to the Capitol, more admired Than Bacchus was in India; Titus Flaminius, Our enemy, led like a dog in a chain,

As I descend or reascend in state.

Shall serve for my foot-stool. I will conjure him, f revenge hath any spells.

Enter FLAMINIUS and DEMETRIUS.

Flam. Command the captain
o wait me with his galley at the next port;
am confident I shall fraught him. [Exit Demetrius.
1st Mer. You are conjuring,
and see what you have raised.

Bere. Cybele save me! do not fear thee, Pluto, though thou hast ssumed a shape not to be matched in Cocytus! Thy dost thou follow me?

Flam. Art thou mad?

Bere. Thou comest

o make me so. How my jelly quakes! Avaunt! 'hat have I to do with thee?

Flam. You shall know at leisure; he time is now too precious.

[Exit.

Bere. 'Tis vanished:

ire, 'twas an apparition.

1st Mer. I fear

fatal one to us.

and Mer. We may easily guess at he cause that brings him hither.

3rd Mer. Now, it ever,

onfirm the king.

1st Mer. Against this battery

ew works are to be raised, or we are ruined.

Bere. What think you of this rampire? 1 'twill hold out:

d he shall shoot through and through it but I'll cross him.

¹ Rampart. He means his own body.



SCENE III.—Bithynia. An Apartment in the Palace.

Enter Flaminius and Philoxenus.

Flam. What we have said the consuls will make good, And the glad Senate ratify.

Phi. They have so
Obliged me for this favour, that there is not
A service of that difficulty from which
I would decline. In this rest confident,
I am your own, and sure.

Flam. You shall do, sir,
A noble office in it; and, however
We thank you for the courtesy, the profit
And certain honours, the world's terror, Rome,
In thankfulness cannot but shower upon you,
Are wholly yours. How happy I esteem
Myself, in this employment, to meet with
A wise and provident statesman!

Phi. My good lord!

Flam. I flatter not in speaking truth. You are so, And, in this prompt alacrity, confirm it: Since a wise forecast in the managing Worldly affairs is the true wisdom, rashness The schoolmistress of idiots. You well know Charity begins at home, and that we are Nearest unto ourselves; fools build upon Imaginary hopes, but wise men ever On real certainties; a tender conscience, Like a glowworm, shows a seeming fire in darkness, But, set near to the glorious light of honour, It is invisible. As you are a statesman, And a master in that art, you must remove All rubs, though with a little wrong sometimes, That may put by the bias of your counsels From the fair mark they aim at.

Phi. You are read well In worldly passages.

Flam. I barter with you uch trifles as I have; but, if you pleased, ou could instruct me that philosophy nd policy in states are not such strangers s men o'er-curious and precise would have them. ut to the point. With speed get me access o the king your pupil: and 'tis well for him hat he hath such a tutor; rich Bithynia 'as never so indebted to a patriot nd vigilant watchman, for her peace and safety, s to yourself.

Phi. Without boast I may whisper have done something that way.

Flam. All in all;

ame, filling her loud trump with truth, proclaims it: ut, when it shall be understood you are 'he principal means by which a dangerous serpent, Varmed in your sovereign's bosom, is delivered 'o have his sting and venomous teeth pulled out, and the ruin, in a willing grant, avoided, Which in detaining him falls on the kingdom, ot Prusias alone, but his saved people, 'ill raise your providence altars.

Phi. Let me entreat

Our patience some few minutes: I'll bring the king person to you.

Flam. Do, and, this effected,

hink of the ring you are privileged to wear

hen a Roman gentleman; and, after that,

provinces and purple. [Exit PHILOXENUS.] I must smile now

my consideration with what glibness

y flatteries, oiled with hopes of future greatness,
e swallowed by this dull pate. But it is not

Orth the observation. Most of our seeming states

Orth the observation. Most of our seeming states-

e caught in the same noose.

Enter PRUSIAS and PHILOXENUS.

Returned so soon!

And the king with him! but his angry forehead Furrowed with frowns. No matter, I am for him.

Pru. From the people of Rome? so quick? Hath he brought with him

Letters of credence, and authority

To treat with us?

Phi. I read them.

Pru. What can he

Propound which I must fear to hear? I would Continue in fair terms with that warlike nation, Ever provided I wrong not myself In the least point of honour.

Phi. To the full

He will instruct your majesty.

Flam. So may

Felicity, as a page, attend your person, As you embrace the friendly counsel sent you From the Roman Senate!

Pru. With my thanks to you Their instrument, if the advice be such As by this preparation you would have me Conceive it is, I shall, and 'twill become me, Receive it as a favour.

Flam. Know then, Rome,
In her pious care that you may still increase
The happiness you live in, and your subjects,.
Under the shadow of their own vines, eat
The fruit they yield them, their soft musical feasts
Continuing, as they do yet, unaffrighted
With the harsh noise of war, entreats as low
As her known power and majesty can descend
You would return, with due equality,
A willingness to preserve what she hath conquered
From change and innovation.

Pru. I attempt not 'o trouble her, nor ever will.

Flam. Fix there;

It if, for your own good, you will move farther, fake Rome your thankful debtor by surrendering not her hands the false impostor that eeks to disturb her quiet.

Pru. This I looked for, and that I should find mortal poison wrapped up n your candied pills. Must I, because you say so, believe that this most miserable king is a false affronter, who, with arguments Inanswerable, and near miraculous proofs, ionfirms himself the true Antiochus? In is it not sufficient that you Romans, n your unsatisfied ambition, have eized with an unjust gripe on half the world, Which you call conquest, if that I consent not io have my innocence soiled with that pollution ou are willingly smeared o'er with?

Flam. Pray you, hear me.

Pru. I will be first heard. Shall I, for your ends, nfringe my princely word; or break the laws If hospitality; defeat myself If the certain honour to restore a king Into his own, and what you Romans have a xtorted and keep from him? Far be it from me! will not buy your amity at such loss. It be to all after times remembered held it not sufficient to live sone born only for myself, and I esire no other monument.

Flam. I grant
is a specious thing to leave behind us
fair report, though in the other world
e have no feeling of it; and to lend
desperate, though fruitless, aid to such

As Fate, not to be altered, hath marked out Examples of calamity, may appear A glorious ornament: but here's a man, The oracle of your kingdom, that can tell you, When there's no probability it may be Effected, 'tis mere madness to attempt it.

Phi. A true position.

Flam. Your inclination
Is honourable, but your power deficient
To put your purposes into act.

Pru. My power?

Flam. Is not to be disputed, if weighed truly
With the petty kings your neighbours; but, when by
lanced

With the globes and sceptres of my mistress Rome, Will—but I spare comparisons. But you build on Your strength to justify the fact. Alas! It is a feeble reed, and leaning on it, Will wound your hand much sooner than support you. You keep in pay, 'tis true, some peace-trained troops, Which awe your neighbours; but consider, when Our eagles shall display their sail-stretched wings, Hovering o'er our legions, what defence Can you expect from yours?

Phi. Urge that point home.

Flam. Our old victorious bands are ever ready; And such as are not our confederates tremble
To think where next the storm shall fall with horror: Philoxenus knows it. Will you, to help one
You should contemn, and is not worth your pity,
Pull it on your own head? Your neighbour Carthage
Would smile to see your error. Let me paint
The danger to you ere it come. Imagine
Our legions, and the auxiliary forces
Of such as are our friends and tributaries,
Drawn up; Bithynia covered with our armies;
All places promising defence blocked up

Vith our armed troops; the siege continuing; amine within and force without disabling ll opposition; then, the army entered, s victory is insolent, the rapes f virgins and grave matrons, reverend old men ith their last groans accusing you; your city nd palace sacked——

Phi. Dear sir!

Flam. And you yourself uptived; and, after that, chained by the neck; our matchless queen, your children, officers, friends, aiting, as scorns of fortune, to give lustre the victor's triumph.

Phi. I am in a fever think upon't.

Flam. As a friend I have delivered, and more than my commission warrants me, an is caution to you. But now, peace or war? the first, I entertain it; if the latter, I instantly defy you.

Phi. Pray you say peace, sir. Pru. On what conditions?

Flam. The delivery

f this seductor and his complices; n no terms else, and suddenly.

Pru. How can I

ispense with my faith given?

Phi. I'll yield you reasons.

Pru. Let it be peace then—oh! Pray you call in [Exit PHILOXENUS.

he wretched man; in the meantime I'll consider ow to excuse myself.

Flam. [Aside.] While I, in silence, riumph in my success, and meditate n the reward that crowns it. A strong army ould have done no more than I alone, and with little breath, have effected.

Enter Queen, Antiochus, Berecinthius, the the Merchants, Philoxenus, Demetrius, and Attendants

Ant. Goodness guard me!

Whom do I look on? Sir, come further from him. He is infectious; so swollen with mischiefs And strange impieties, his language too So full of siren sorceries, if you hear him There is no touch of moral honesty, Though rampired in your soul, but will fly from you. The mandrake's shrieks, the aspic's deadly tooth, The tears of crocodiles, or the basilisk's eye Kill not so soon, nor with that violence, As he, who, in his cruel nature, holds Antipathy with mercy.

Pru. I am sorry—

Ant. Sorry! for what? That you had an intent To be a good and just prince? Are compassion And charity grown crimes?

Pru. The gods can witness
How much I would do for you; and but that
Necessity of state----

Ant. Make not the gods

Guilty of your breach of faith! From them you for not

Treachery commanded; and the state, that seeks Strength from disloyalty, in the quicksands which She trusteth in is swallowed. 'Tis in vain To argue with you: if I am condemned, Detences come too late. What do you purpose Shall fall on poor Antiochus?

No. For my Security there being no means left else— Against my will I must deliver you.

14: You know?

¹ See note ante, p. 326.

Enter Guard.

Pru. To Rome's ambassador. Ant. O. the Furies! xceed not him in cruelty! Remember am a king, your royal guest; your right hand he pawn and pledge that should defend me from ly bloody enemy. Did you accuse he Carthaginian senate for denying id and protection to me, giving hope 'o my despairing fortunes; or but now aise me to make my fall more terrible? did you tax them of weakness, and will you o far transcend them in a coward fear, leclaimed against by your own mouth? f you dare not give me harbour, set me safe yet n any desert, where this serpent's hisses lay not be heard; and to the gods I'll speak you prince both wise and honourable.

Pru. Alas !

t is not in my power.

Ant. As an impostor

Take off my head then; at the least, so far Prove merciful; or with any torture ease me If the burthen of a life, rather than yield me to this politic state hangman.

Flam. [Aside.] This to me is kind of ravishing music.

Queen. I have lived

for many years, sir, your obedient handmaid, for ever in a syllable presumed of cross your purposes; but now, with a sorrow segreat almost as this poor king's, beholding our poverty of spirit—for it does beserve no better name—I must put off obsequiousness and silence, and take to me

The warrant and authority of your queen, And as such give you counsel.

Pru. You displease me.

Queen. The physic promising health is ever bitter.

Hear me. Will you that are a man—nay more,

A king of men-do that, forced to it by fear,

Which common men would scorn? I am a woman-

A weak and feeble woman-yet before

I would deliver up my bondwoman,

And have it told I did it by constraint,

I would endure to have these hands cut off,

These eyes pulled out——

Pru. I'll hear no more.

Queen. Do you, then,

As a king should.

Pru. Away with her!

[They bear off the Queen

Flam. My affairs

Exact a quick despatch.

Pru. He's yours. Conceive What I would say. Farewell.

[Exeunt PRUSIAS and PHILOXENU!

Ant. That I had been

Born dumb! I will not grace thy triumph, tyrant, With one request of favour. [Exit Antiochus guarda

Bere. My good lord!

Flam. Your will, dear flamen?

Bere. I perceive you are like

To draw a great charge upon you. My fat bulk, And these my lions, will not be kept for a little, Nor would we be chargeable; and, therefore, kissing Your honoured hands, I take my leave.

Flam. By no means;

I have been busy, but I shall find leisure To treat with you in another place.

Bere. I would not

Put your lordship to the trouble.

Flam. It will be

A pleasure rather.—Bring them all away.

Bere. The comfort is, whether I drown or hang I shall not be long about it; I'll preserve

The dignity of my family.

Flam. 'Twill become you.

Exeunt.





ACT THE FOURTH.

• SCENE I.—Callipolis. A Room in the Proconsul's House,

Enter METELLUS and SEMPRONIUS.



ET. A revolt in Asia?

Semp. Yes, on the report

The long-thought-dead Antiochus
lives.

Met. I heard
Such a one appeared in Carthage,
but suppressed

By Titus Flaminius, my noble friend, Who, by his lettters, promised me a visit, If his designs, as I desire they may, Succeeded to his wishes.

Semp. Till you behold him I can bring your honour, if you please, where you May find fair entertainment.

Met. From whom, captain?

Semp. A new-rigged pinnace, that put off from Corinth, And is arrived among us, tight and yare; Nor comes she to pay custom for her fraught, But to impose a tax on such as dare Presume to look on her, which smock-gamesters offer Sooner than she demands it.

Met. Some fresh courtezan, Upon mine honour!

Semp. You are i' the right, my lord.

Met. And there lies your intelligence?

Semp. True, my good lord;

'Tis a discovery will not shame a captain

When he lies in garrison. Since I was a trader

In such commodities I never saw

Her equal: I was ravished with the object;

And, would you visit her, I believe you would write

Yourself of my opinion.

Met. Fie upon thee!

Semp. And therefore have the greater use
Of such a cordial. All Medea's drugs,
And her charms to boot, that made old Æson young,
Were nothing to her touch; your viper wine,
So much in practice with grey-bearded gallants,
But vappa¹ to the nectar of her lip.
She hath done miracles since she came: a usurer,
Full of the gout, and more diseases than
His crutches could support, used her rare physic
But one short night, and, rising in the morning,
He danced a lavolta.

Met. Prithee, leave thy fooling, And talk of something else.

Semp. The whole world yields not
Apter discourse. She hath all the qualities
Conducing to the sport: sings like a siren;
Dances as the gross element of earth
Had no part in her; her discourse so full
Of eloquence and prevailing, there is nothing
She asks to be denied her. Had she desired
My captain's place, I had cashiered myself;
And, should she beg your proconsulship, if you heard her,
'Twere hers, upon my life.

Met. She should be damned first, And her whole tribe.

¹ Palled wine.

Enter FLAMINIUS.

My Lord Flaminius, welcome!

I have long been full of expectation Of your great design, and hope a fair success Hath crowned your travail in your bringing in This dangerous impostor.

Flam. At the length, I have him and his complices.

Met. I'll not now

Inquire how you achieved him, but would know, Since 'tis referred to you, what punishment Should fall upon him.

Flam. If you please, in private, I will acquaint you.

Met. Captain, let me entreat you To meditate on your woman in the next room; We may have employment for you.

Semp. I had rather She would command my service.

Exit.

Met. Pray you sit.

Flam. Now, my good lord, I ask your grave advice What course to take.

Met. That, in my judgment, needs not Long consultation. He is a traitor, And, his process framed, must, as a traitor, suffer A death due to his treason.

Flam. There's much more
To be considered, there being a beliet,
Dispersed almost through Asia, that he is
The true Antiochus; and we must decline
The certain scandal it will draw upon
The Roman government, if he die the man
He is by the most received to be; and therefore,
Till that opinion be removed, we must
Use some quaint practice, that may work upon
His hopes or fears, to draw a free confession

That he was suborned to take on him the name He still maintains.

Met. That, torture will wrest from him; I know no readier way.

Flam. If you had seen
His carriage in Carthage and Bithynia,
You would not think so. Since I had him in
My power I have used all possible means that might
Force him into despair, and so to do
A violence on himself. He hath not tasted
These three days any sustenance, and still
Continues fasting.

Met. Keep him to that diet Some few hours more.

Flam. I am of opinion rather, Some competence offered him, and a place of rest, Where he might spend the remnant of his days In pleasure and security, might do more Than fear of death or torture.

Met. It may be;

There are such natures; and now I think upon't, I can help you to a happy instrument

To motion it. Your ear. [Whispers.

Flam. 'Tis wondrous well, And it may prove fortunate.

Met. 'Tis but a trial:

However, I will send for her.

Flam. Pray you do;

She shall have my directions.

Met. What botches

Are made in the shop of policy!

Flam. So they cover

The nakedness we must conceal, it skills not. [Exeunt.

1 i.e. Matters not.



SCENE II.—Callipolis. The Prison.

Enter Jailor, with a poniard and a halter.

Jai. Why should I feel compunction for that Which yields me profit? ha! a prisoner's tears Should sooner pierce flint or Egyptian marble Than move us to compassion. Yet I know not, The sufferings of this miserable man Work strangely on me. Some say he is a king: It may be so; but, if they hold out thus, I am sure he is like to die a beggar's death, And starve for hunger. I am, by a servant Of the Lord Flaminius, strictly commanded, Before I have raised him out of the dungeon, To lay these instruments in his view; to what end I am not to inquire, but I am certain, After his long fast, they are viands that Will hardly be digested. Do you hear, sir? Ant. [Below.] If thou art my deathsman, welcome!

Jai. I so pity you

That I wish I had commission, as you rise, To free you from all future misery, To knock your brains out.

Ant. Would thou hadst!

Jai. You have

The liberty to air yourself, and that Is all I can afford you. Fast, and be merry; I am elsewhere called on.

Exit.

Ant. [Rising from below.] Death! as far as faintness Will give me leave to chide thee, I am angry Thou comest not at me. No attendance? Famine. Thy meagre harbinger, flatters me with hope Of thy so wished arrival; yet thy coming Is still deferred. Why? Is it in thy scorn To take a lodging here? I am a king, And, though I know the reverence that waits

Ipon the potent sceptre, nor the guards
of faithful subjects, neither threats, nor prayers
of friends or kindred, nor yet walls of brass
or fire, should their proud height knock at the moon,
an stop thy passage, when thou art resolved
of orce thy entrance: yet a king, in reason,
y the will of fate severed from common men,
bould have the privilege and prerogative,
when he is willing to disrobe himself
of this cobweb garment, life, to have thee ready
of do thy fatal office. What have we here?

Enter Flaminius, Metellus, and Sempronius above. poniard, and a halter! From the objects am easily instructed to what end hey were prepared; either will serve the turn ease the burthen of a wretched life. thus [Lifts the dagger], or thus [Lifts the halter], in death! I must commend ne Roman courtesy. How am I grown cheap and vile in their opinion that um denied an executioner? ill not the loss of my life quit the cost? rare frugality! will they force me to mine own hangman? Every slave, that's guilty crimes not to be named, receives such favour the judge's doom, and is my innocenceie oppressed innocence of a star-crossed kingeld more contemptible? My better angel, lough wanting power to alter fate, discovers eir hellish purposes. Yes, yes, 'tis so: y body's death will not suffice, they aimed at y soul's perdition; and shall I, to shun few hours more of misery, betray her? , she is free still, and shall so return om whence she came, and in her pureness triumph, ieir tyranny chained and fettered.

Flam. O, the devil!

Thou art weak. This will not do.

Met. Mark how he'll stand

The second charge.

Semp. The honour is reserved

For the pretty tempting friend I brought, my life on't.

Re-enter Jailor, with brown bread, and a wooden dish of water.

Jai. Here, sir, take this; though coarse, it will kill hunger;

It is your daily pittance; yet, when you please, Your commons may be mended.

Ant. Show me the way.

Jai. Confess yourself to be a cozening knave; The matter's feasible; but, if you will be Still king of the crickets, feed on this and live: You shall not say we starved you.

[Exit.

Ant. Stay, I beseech thee, And take thy cruel pity back again To him that sent it. This is a tyranny That doth transcend all precedents. But even now, this lump of clay, her prison, Of itself, in the want of nourishment, opening, Had shook off her sick feathers, and prepared Herself to make a noble flight, as set At liberty, and now this reparation Again immures. You, for whose curious palates The elements are ransacked, look upon This bill of fare, by my penurious steward, Necessity, served to a famished king; And, warned by my example, when your tables Crack not with the weight of dear and far-fetched dainties.

Dispute not with Heaven's bounties. What shall I do? If I refuse to touch and taste these coarse And homely cates, I hasten my own fate,

And so, with willingness, embrace a sin I hitherto have fled from. No, I'll eat; And if, at this poor rate, life can continue, I will not throw it off.

Flam. I pine with envy To see his constancy.

Met. Bid your property enter, And use her subtlest magic.

[A lute is heard.

Semp. I have already
Acquainted her with her cue. The music ushers
Her personal appearance.

[A song within.]

Ant. From what hand
And voice do I receive this charity?
It is unusual at such a feast.
But I miscall it; 'tis some new-found engine
Mounted to batter me. Ha!

Enter Courtezan.

Cour. If I were not
More harsh and rugged in my disposition
Than thy tormentors, these eyes had outstripped
My tongue, and, with a shower of tears, had told you
Compassion brings me hither.

Ant. That I could Believe so much, as, by my miseries! (An oath I dare not break) I gladly would; Pity, methinks, I know not how, appears So lovely in you.

Cour. It being spent upon
A subject in each circumstance deserving
An universal sorrow, though 'tis simple,
It cannot be deformed. May I presume
To kiss your royal hand? for sure you are not
Less than a king.

Ant. Have I one witness living Dares only think so much?

Cour. I do believe it.

And will die in that belief; and nothing more Confirms it than your patience, not to be Found in a meaner man. Not all the trim Of the majesty you were born to, though set off With pomp and glorious lustre, showed you in Such full perfection as at this instant Shines round about you, in your constant bearing Your adverse fortune, a degree beyond All magnanimity that ever was Canonized by mankind.

Ant. Astonishment

And wonder seizes on me. Pray you what are you? Cour. Without your pity, nearer to the grave Than the malice of prevailing enemies Can hurry you.

Ant. My pity! I will part with

So much from what I have engrossed to mourn

Mine own afflictions as I freely grant it.

Will you have me weep before I know the cause

In which I may serve you?

Cour. You already have

Spent too much of that stock. Pray you, first hear me, And wrong not my simplicity with doubts
Of that I shall deliver. I am a virgin——

Semp. If I had not toyed with her myself, I should now believe her!

Cour. And though not of the eagle's brood, descended From a noble family.

Semp. Her mother sold her To a Corinthian lecher at thirteen, As 'tis reported.

Met. Be silent, I command you.

Ant. To be a virgin, and so well derived, In my opinion, fair one, are not things To be lamented.

Cour. If I had not fallen rom my clear height of chastity—I confess it—

n my too forward wishes that is sin I am guilty of. I am in love, sir,—mpotently mad in love, and my desires lot to be stopped in their career.

Ant. With whom we you so taken?

Cour. With your own dear self, sir: lehold me not with such a face of wonder; t is too sad a truth. The story of 'our most deplorable fortune at the first warmed me Vith more than modest heats; but, since I saw you, am all fire, and shall turn cinders, if 'ou show not mercy to me.

Ant. Foolish creature, f I could suppose this true, and met your wishes Vith equal ardour, as I am, what shadow If seeming hope is left you to arrive at The port you long for?

Cour. If you will be good
Into yourself, the voyage is accomplished:
t is but putting off a poisoned shirt,
Which in the wearing eats into your flesh,
and must, against your will, be soon forced from you,
he malice of your enemies tendering to you
lore true security and safety than
he violence of your friends' and servants' wishes
ould heap upon you.

Ant. 'Tis impossible. lear this dark mystery, for yet, to me, Du speak in riddles.

Cour. I will make it easy o your understanding, and thus sweeten it

[Offers to kiss him.

the delivery. 'Tis but to disclaim, ith the continual cares that wait upon it, he title of a king.

¹ Uncontrollably.

Ant. [Aside.] Devil Flaminius! I find you here!

Cour. Why do you turn away? The counsel that I offer, if you please To entertain it, as long-wished companions, In her right hand brings liberty, and a calm After so many storms; and you no sooner Shall, to the world, profess you were suborned To this imposture—though I still believe It is a truth—but, with a free remission For the offence, I, as your better genius. Will lead you from this place of horror to A paradise of delight, to which compared, Thessalian Tempe, or that garden where Venus with her revived Adonis spend Their pleasant hours, and make from their embraces A perpetuity of happiness. Deserve not to be named. There, in an arbour, Of itself supported o'er a bubbling spring, With purple hyacinths and roses covered. We will enjoy the sweets of life, nor shall Arithmetic sum up the varieties of Our amorous dalliance: our viands such, As not alone shall nourish appetite, But strengthen our performance; and, when called for, The quiristers of the air shall give us music; And, when we slumber, in a pleasant dream You shall behold the mountains of vexations Which you have heaped upon the Roman tyrants In your free resignation of your kingdom, And smile at their afflictions.

Ant. Hence, you siren!

Cour. Are you displeased?

Ant. Were all your flatteries

Aimed at this mark? Will not my virtuous anger,
Assisted by contempt and scorn, yield strength
To spurn thee from me? But thou art some whore—

Some common whore—and, if thou hast a soul (As in such creatures it is more than doubted), It hath its being in thy wanton veins, And will, with thy expense of blood, become Like that of sensual beasts.

Met. This will not do.

Ant. How did my enemies lose themselves to think, A painted prostitute with her charms could conquer What malice, at the height, could not subdue! Is all their stock of malice so consumed, As, out of penury, they are forced to use A whore for their last agent?

Cour. If thou wert

Ten times a king thou liest. I am a lady, A gamesome lady of the last edition; And, though I physic noblemen, no whore.

Met. He hath touched her freehold.

Semp. Now let her alone, And she will worry him.

Cour. Have I lived to have

My courtesies refused? That I had leave

To pluck thy eyes out!

Are you so coy? Thou art a man of snow,
And thy father got thee in the wane of the moon!
But scorn me not. 'Tis true I was set on
By the higher powers; but now, for all the wealth
In Asia, thou shalt not have the favour,
Though, prostrate on the earth, thou wouldst implore it,
To kiss my shoestring.

Re-enter Jailor and others.

Flam. We lose time, my lord.

Cour. Foh! how he stinks! I will not wear a rag

That he hath breathed on.

[Exit.

Met. Without more ado

Let him have his sentence.

Flam. Drag him hence.

Ant. Are you there?

Nay, then-

Flam. I will not hear him speak. My anger

Is lost. Why linger you?

Ant. Death ends all, however!

Exeunt.



SCENE III.—Callipolis. A Street.

Enter Officers, leading in Berecinthius and 1st Merchant, with halters.

Bere. What a skeleton they have made of me! Starve me first,

And hang me after! Is there no conscience extant To a man of my order? They have degraded me, Ta'en away my lions, and to make me roar like them They have pared the flesh off from my fingers' ends, And then laughed at me; I have been kept in darkness These five long days, no visitants but devils, Or men in shapes more horrid, coming at me; A chafing-dish of coals and a butcher's knife I found set by me, and, inquiring why, I was told that I had flesh enough of mine own, And, if that I were hungry, I might freely Eat mine own carbonadoes, and be chronicled For a cannibal never read of.

Off. Will you walk, sir?

Bere. I shall come too soon, though I creep, to such a breakfast.

I ever use to take my portion sitting: Hanging in the air, 'tis not physical.

Off. Time flies away, sir.

Bere. Why, let him fly, sir. Or, if you please to stay him,

¹ Slices of broiled meat.

bind up the bold knave's wings, make use of my collar;

e is substance in it, I can assure your worship, I thank your wisdom that you make distinction een me and this starveling. He goes to it

a greyhound for killing of sheep in a twopenny slip;

here's a cable will weigh up an anchor, yet, if I may have fair play, ere I die to one I shall make it crack.

f. What would you have, sir?

ere. My ballast about me; I shall ne'er sail well else he other world. My bark, you see, wants stowage; give me half a dozen of hens and a loin of veal :eep it steady, and you may spare the trouble ulling me by the legs, or setting the knot er mine ear. This drum, well braced, defies a foolish courtesies.

t Mer. This mirth, good flamen, it of season. Let us think of Elysium, e die honest men; or what we there I suffer from the Furies.

ere. Thou art a fool

hink there are or gods or goddesses: the latter, if that she had any power,

e, being the mother of them, would have helped me.

y are things we make ourselves. Or, grant there should be

ell, or an Elysium, sing I cannot
Orpheus' harp in the one, nor dance in the other:
if there be a Cerberus, if I serve not
make three sops for his three heads, that may serve
something more than an ordinary breakfast,
cur is devilish hungry. Would I had
away with your fellow merchants! I had then
vided for my fame. Yet, as I am,
ve one request to make, and that, my friends,
s. II.

Concerns my body, which I pray you grant, And then I shall die in peace.

Off. What is it?

Bere. Marry,

That you would be suitors to the proconsul for me That no covetous Roman, after I am dead, May beg to have my skin flayed off, and stuff it With straw like an alligator, and then show it In fairs and markets for a monster. Though I know the sight will draw more fools to gape on't Than a camel or an elephant, aforehand I tell you, if you do, my ghost shall haunt you.

Off. You shall have burial, fear not.

Bere. And room enough

To tumble in, I pray you, though I take up More grave than Alexander. I have ill luck If I stink not as much as he, and yield the worms As large a supper.

1st Mer. Are you not mad to talk thus?

Bere. I came crying into the world, and am resolved

To go out merrily: therefore despatch me. [Exeunt.



SCENE IV.—Callipolis. A Room in the Proconsul's House.

Enter METELLUS and FLAMINIUS.

Met. There never was such constancy. Flam. You give it

Too fair a name: 'tis foolish obstinacy,
For which he shall, without my pity, suffer.
What we do for the service of the republic,
And propagation of Rome's glorious empire,
Needs no defence, and we shall wrong our judgments
To feel compunction for it. Have you given order,
According to the sentence, that the impostor,

iding upon an ass, his face turned to he hinder part, may in derision be ought through Callipolis?

Met. Yes; and a paper pon his head, in which, with capital letters, is faults inscribed, and by three trumpeters oclaimed before him; and, that done, to have him mmitted to the galleys. Here comes Sempronius,

Enter SEMPRONIUS.

whom I gave the charge.

Semp. I have performed it every circumstance.

Flam. How do the people ceive it?

Semp. As an act of cruelty, d not of justice: it drew tears from all e sad spectators. His demeanour was the whole progress worth the observation, t one thing most remarkable.

Flam. What was that?

Semp. When the city-clerk with a loud voice read the cause

r which he was condemned, in taking on him e name of a king, with a settled countenance e miserable man replied, "I am so:" t when he touched his being a cheating Jew, s patience moved, with a face full of anger boldly said, "Tis false." I never saw the magnanimity.

Flam. Frontless impudence rather.

Semp. Or anything else you please.

Flam. Have you forced on him. e habit of a slave?

Semp. Yes, and in that, don my weakness, still there does appear sind of majesty in him.

Flam. You look on it

With the eyes of foolish pity that deceives you.

Semp. This way he comes; and, I believe, when you see him,

You'll be of my opinion.

Off. [Within.] Make way there.

Enter Officers, leading in Antiochus, his head shaved, in the habit of a slave.

Ant. Fate! 'tis thy will it should be thus, and I With patience obey it. Was there ever, In all precedent maps of misery, Calamity so drawn out to the life As she appears in me? In all the changes Of fortune, such a metamorphosis Antiquity cannot show us. Men may read there Of kings deposed, and some in triumph led By the proud insulting Roman; yet they were Acknowledged such, and died so; my sad fate Is of a worse condition, and Rome To me more barbarous than ere yet to any Brought in subjection. Is it not sufficient That the locks of this our royal head are shaved off; My glorious robes changed to this slavish habit; This hand that grasped a sceptre manacled; Or that I have been, as a spectacle, Exposed to public frown, if to make perfect The cruel reckoning I am not compelled To live beyond this, and, with stripes, be forced To stretch my shrunk-up sinews at an oar, In the company of thieves and murderers, My innocence and their guilt no way distinguished, But equal in our sufferings?

Met. You may yet

Redeem all, and be happy.

Flam. But, persisting
In this imposture, think but what it is

To live in hell on earth, and rest assured It is your fatal portion.

Ant. Do what you please.

I am in your power, but still Antiochus,
King of the Lower Asia—no impostor—
That, four and twenty years since, lost a battle,
And challenge now mine own, which tyrannous Rome
With violence keeps from me.

Flam. Stop his mouth!

Ant. This is the very truth; and, if I live Thrice Nestor's years in torture, I will speak No other language.

Met. I begin to melt.Flam. To the galley with him!Ant. Every place shall beA temple to my penitence in me!

[Exeunt.





ACT THE FIFTH.

SCENE I.—Syracuse. An Apartment in a Palace.

Enter MARCELLUS, and the 2nd and 3rd Merchants.

AR. Upon your recantation this gallerien¹
Was not Antiochus, you had your pardons
Signed by the senate?

2nd Mer. Yes, my lord.

Mar. Troth, tell me,

And freely—I am no informer—did you Believe and know him such, or raised that rumour For private ends of your own?

3rd Mer. May it please your excellence To understand the fear of death wrought on us, In a kind, to turn apostatas: besides, Having proved our testimonies could not help him, We studied our safeties.

2nd Mer. A desire too

Of the recovery of our own, kept from us With strong hand, by his violent persecutor, Titus Flaminus, when he was at Carthage, Urged us to seek redress; nor was it fit We should oppose great Rome.

Mar. In worldly wisdom
You are excusable; but——
3rd Mer. We beseech your honour
Press us no further.

¹ Fr. Galérien, a galley-slave.

² See note ante, p. 326.

Mar. I do not purpose it.

Do you know what this contains? [Holding up a letter. 2nd Mer. No, my good lord.

3rd Mer. Perhaps we bring the warrant for our deaths, As 'tis said of Bellerophon, yet we durst not

Presume to open it.

Mar. 'Twas manners in you; But I'll discharge you of that fear. There is No hurt intended to you.

3rd Mer. We thank your lordship.

Mar. How is the service of Flaminius spoke of In Rome?

2nd Mer. With admiration, and many Divine great honours to him.

Mar. The people's voice

Is not oraculous ever. Are you sure
The galley in which your supposed king is chained
Was bound for Syracusa?

3rd Mer. She is now In the port, my lord.

Mar. Titus Flaminius in her?

Mar. Titus Flaminius in her?

3rd Mer. Upon my certain knowledge.

Mar. Keep yourselves

Concealed till you are called for. When least hoped for, You shall have justice.

2nd Mer. Your honour's vassals ever.

Exeunt Merchants.

٠,

Mar. Here, here, it is apparent that the poet Wrote truth, though no proof else could be alleged To make it good, that, though the Heavens lay open To human wishes, and the Fates were bound To sign what we desire, such clouds of error Involve our reason, we still beg a curse, And not a blessing. How many, born unto Ample possessions, and, like petty kings, Disposing of their vassals, sated with The peace and quiet of a country life,

Carried headlong with ambition, contend
To wear the golden fetters of employment,
Presuming there's no happiness but in
The service of the state! but when they have tried,
By a sad experience, the burthen of them,
When 'tis not in their power, at any rate
They would redeem their calm security,
Mortgaged in wantonness. Alas! what are we,
That govern provinces, but preys exposed
To every subtle spy? and when we have,
Like sponges, sucked in wealth, we are squeezed out
By the rough hand of the law; and, failing in
One syllable of our commission, with
The loss of what we got with toil, we draw

Enter CORNELIA and a Moor-woman.

What was our own in question.—You come timely, To turn my tired thoughts from a sad discourse That I had with myself.

Corn. I rather fear, sir,
I bring an argument along with me
That will increase, not lessen, such conceptions
As I found with you.

Mar. Why, sweet? what's the matter?

Corn. When I but name Antiochus, though I spare
To make a brief relation how he died,
Or what he is, if he now live, a sigh,
And seconded with a tear, I know, must fall
As a due tribute to him.

Mar. Which I pay
Without compulsion; but why do you
Lance this old sore?

Corn. The occasion commands it, And now I would forget it, I am forced, In thankfulness, to call to memory The favours for which we must ever owe him. You had the honour, in his court at Sardis, o be styled his friend, an honour Rome and Carthage ere rivals for, and did deserve the envy his prime minions and favourites: is natural subjects planted in his favour rooted up, as your dislike or praise ported them; the good king holding what yu spake to be oraculous, and not • be disputed. His magnificent gifts infirmed his true affection, which you were Ore weary to receive than he to give; t still he studied new ones. Mar. Pray you, no more. Corn. Oh, 'tis a theme, sir, I could ever dwell on; t, since it does offend you, I will speak what concerns myself. He did not blush, the height of his felicity, to confess bricius, my lord and father, for s much-loved kinsman, and as such observed him ou may please to remember too, when, at public sacrifice made to the gods ter a long infection, in which le Asian kings and queens were his assistants, ith what respect and grace he did receive me; 1d, at a solemn tilting, when he had it on the richest armour of the world. niling he said—his words are still, and shall be, rit in the tablet of my heart—" Fair cousin," he began (and then you thought me fair too), since I am turned soldier, 'twere a solecism, the language of the war, to have no mistress; 1d therefore, as a prosperous omen to y undertakings, I desire to fight, you with willingness give suffrage to it, nder your gracious colours:" and then, loosening scarf tied to mine arm, he did entreat me) fasten it on his. O, with what joy lid obey him, rapt beyond myself

In my imagination to have So great a king my servant!

Mar. You had too

Some private conference.

Corn. And you gave way to it Without a sign of jealousy, and dispensed with The Roman gravity.

Mar. Would I could again
Grant you like opportunity
Is this remembered now?

Corn. It does prepare

A suit I have, which you must not deny me,
To see the man, who, as it is reported,
In the exterior parts Nature hath drawn
As his perfect copy. There must be something in him
Remarkable in his resemblance only
Of King Antiochus' features.

Mar. 'Twas my purpose;

Enter FLAMINIUS and DEMETRIUS.

And so much, my Cornelia, Flaminius Shall not deny us.

Flam. As my duty binds me, My stay here being but short, I come unsent for To kiss your lordship's hands.

Mar. I answer you

In your own language, sir.—And yet your stay here May be longer than you think.

[Aside.

Flam. Most honoured madam, I cannot stoop too low in tendering of My humblest service.

Corn. You disgrace your courtship In overacting it, my lord: I look not For such observance.

Flam. I am most unhappy, If that your excellence make any scruple Of doubt you may command me. Corn. This assurance

Gives me encouragement to entreat a favour, In which my lord being a suitor with me, I hope shall find a grant.

Flam. Though all that's mine Be comprehended in 't.

Mar. Your promise, sir,
Shall not so far engage you. In respect
Of some familiar passages between
The King Antiochus, when he lived, and us,
And, though it needs it not, for farther proof
That this is an impostor, we desire
Some conference with him.

Flam. For your satisfaction
I will dispense a little with the strictness
Of my commission.—Sirrah, will the captain
To bring him to the proconsul.

Corn. His chains took off; That I entreat too, since I would not look on

The image of a king I so much honoured Bound like a slave.

Flam. See this great lady's will Be punctually obeyed.

Exit DEMETRIUS.

Mar. Your wisdom, sir,

Hath done the state a memorable service, In strangling in the birth this dreadful monster; And, though with some your cruel usage of him (For so they call your fit severity) May find a harsh interpretation, wise men In judgment must applaud it.

Flam. Such as are
Selected instruments for deep designs,
As things unworthy of them, must not feel
Or favours or affections. Though I know
The ocean of your apprehensions needs not
The rivulet of my poor cautions, yet,
Bold from my long experience, I presume

(As a symbol of my zeal and service to you)
To leave this counsel: when you are, my lord,
Graced or distasted by the state, remember
Your faculties are the state's, and not your own;
And therefore have a care the empty sounds
Of friend or enemy sway you not beyond
The limits are assigned you. We, with ease,
Swim down the stream; but to oppose the torrent
Is dangerous, and to go more or less
Than we are warranted, fatal.

Mar. With my thanks
For your so grave advice, I'll put in practice
On all occasions what you deliver,
And study them as aphorisms: in the meantime,
Pray you accept such entertainment as
Syracusa can present you. When the impostor
Arrives let us have notice. Pray you walk, sir. [Exeure



SCENE II.—Another Room in the same.

Enter Antiochus, Captain, and Soldiers.

Capt. Wait at the palace gate. There is no fear now Of his escape; I'll be myself his guardian Till you hear further from me. [Exeunt Soldiers.

Ant. What new engine
Hath cruelty found out to raise against
This poor demolished rampire? it is levelled
With the earth already. Will they triumph in
The ruins they have made; or is there yet
One masterpiece of tyranny in store
Beyond that I have suffered? If there be
A vial of affliction not poured out yet
Upon this sinful head, I am prepared,
And will look on the cloud before it break
Wit' 'ment. Scorn me not, captain,

As a vain braggart; I will make this good,
And I have strength to do it. I am armed
With such varieties of defensive weapons,
Lent to me from my passive fortitude,
That there's no torment of a shape so horrid
an shake my constancy. Where lies the scene now?
Though the hangings of the stage were congealed gore,
The chorus flinty executioners,
Ind the spectators, if it could be, more
Thuman than Flaminius, the cue given,
The principal actor's ready.

Capt. If I durst

Could show my compassion.

Ant. Take heed, captain;

ity in Roman officers is a crime

• be punished more than murder in cold blood:

ear up. To tell me where I am, I take it,

i no offence.

Capt. You are in Syracusa, the court of the proconsul.

Ant. Who? Marcellus?

Capt. That noble Roman. By him you are sent for, but to what end I am ignorant.

Ant. Ha! He was

Ay creature, and, in my prosperity, proud To hold dependence of me, though I graced him With the title of a friend; and his fair lady n courtship styled my mistress. Can they be nfected with such barbarism as to make me A spectacle for their sport?

Enter Marcellus, Flaminius, Cornelia, Moorwoman, and Servants.

Capt. They are here, and soon Γhey will resolve you.

Mar. Be reserved, and let not
The near resemblance of his shape transport you

Beyond yourself; though I confess the object Does much amaze me.

Corn. You impose, my lord,

What I want power to bear.

Mar. Let my example,

Though your fierce passions make war against it, Strengthen your reason.

Ant. Have you taken yet .

A full view of me? In what part do I

Appear a monster?

Corn. His own voice!

Mar. Forbear.

Ant. Though I were an impostor, as this fellow Labours you to believe, you break the laws Of fair humanity in adding to Affliction at the height; and I must tell you The reverence you should pay unto the shape Of King Antiochus may challenge pity As a due debt, not scorn. Wise men preserve Dumb pictures of their friends, and look upon them With feeling and affection, yet not hold it A foolish superstition; but there is In thankfulness a greater tie on you To show compassion.

Mar. Were it possible

Thou couldst be King Antiochus-

Ant. What then?

Mar. I should both say and do-

Ant. Nothing for me

(As far as my persuasion could prevent it)
Not suiting with the quality and condition
Of one that owes his loyalty to Rome;
And since it is by the inscrutable will
Of fate determined that the royalties
Of Asia must be conferred upon her,
For what offence I know not, 'tis in vain
For men to oppose it. You express, my lord,

of sorrow for me, in which, madam, em to be a sharer. That you may ome proof to defend it, for your mirth's sake the juggler, or more subtle gipsy, your admiration reveal mysteries to you, which, as you are Romans, ist receive for cunning tricks, but give her credit to them.

. At your peril

ty give him hearing; but to have faith in him ours to treason. Such an impudent slave ver read of.

I dare stand his charms en ears.—Speak on. If so, have at you! u call to your memory, when you were is with Antiochus, before ecian expedition, what he, s own hands, presented you as a favour, d man by to witness it? Give me leave ellect myself. Yes—sure 'twas so e me a fair sword. 'Tis true, and you never to part from it. Is it still possession? The same sword I have. hile I live, will keep. Will you not say, ; four and twenty years since you aster of that gift, if now I know it, a thousand others, that I have of memory? I shall receive it

ommon sleight.—Sirrah, fetch all the swords ie own use in my armoury; and, do you hear? give directions. (Whispers. Serv. With all care, sir.

Exit.

Ant. To entertain the time until your servant Returns, there is no syllable that passed Between you and Antiochus which I could not Articulately deliver. You must still Be confident that I am an impostor, Or else the trick is nothing.

Re-enter Servant, with many swords.

Corn. Can this be?

Ant. O, welcome, friend. Most choice and curious swords,

But mine is not among them.

Mar. Bring the rest.

Enter another Servant, with more swords.

Ant. Ay, this is it: this is the sword I gave you Before I went to Greece. Be not amazed,
Nor let this trifle purchase a belief
I am Antiochus. Here is one will assure you
These are but juggling tricks of an affronter.

Flam. They are no more. A contract's sealed between The devil and this seducer, at the price Of his damned soul, and his familiar dæmon Acquaints him with these passages.

Mar. I know not,

But I am thunderstruck.

Corn. I can contain Myself no longer.

Ant. Stay, dear madam; though
Credulity be excusable in your sex,
To take away all colour of guilt in you,
You shall have stronger proofs. The scarf you gave me,
As a testimony you adopted me
Into your service, I ware on mine armour,
When I fought with Marcus Scaurus; and mine eye
Hath on the sudden found a precious jewel

You deigned to receive from me . . .

Which you wear on your . . .

Corn. I acknowledge

It was the King Antiochus' gift.

Ant. I will

Make a discovery of a secret in it

Of which you yet are ignorant. Pray you trust it,

For King Antiochus' sake, into my hands.

I thank your readiness. Nay, dry your eyes;

You hinder else the faculty of seeing

The cunning of the lapidary. I can

Pull out the stone, and under it you shall find

My name, and cipher I then used, engraven.

Corn. 'Tis most apparent. Though I lose my life for't.

These knees shall pay their duty.

Ant. By no means;

For your own sake be still incredulous,
Since your faith cannot save me. I should know
This Moorish woman. Yes, 'tis she.—Thou wert
One of my laundry, and thou wast called Zanthia
While thou wert mine. I am glad thou hast lighted on
So gracious a mistress.

Moor-wo. Mine own king!
O, let me kiss your feet. What cursed villains
Have thus transformed you?

Flam. 'Tis not safe, my lord, To suffer this.

Mar. I am turned statue, or All this is but a vision.

Ant. Your ear, madam;

Mass. II.

Since what I now shall say is such a secret
As is known only to yourself and me,
And must exclude a third, though your own lord,
From being of the counsel. Having gained
Access and privacy with you, my hot blood
(No friend to modest purposes) prompted me,

With pills of poisoned language, candied o'er With hopes of future greatness, to attempt The ruin of your honour. I enforced then My power to justify the ill, and pressed you With mountainous promises of love and service: But when the building of your faith and virtue Began to totter, and a kind of grant Was offered, my then sleeping temperance Began to rouse itself; and, breaking through The obstacles of lust, when most assured To enjoy a pleasant hour, I let my suit fall, And, with a gentle reprehension, taxed Your forward proneness, but with many vows Ne'er to discover it, which Heaven can witness I have and will keep faithfully.

Corn. This is

The King Antiochus, as sure as I am The daughter of my mother.

Mar. Be advised.

Flam. This is little less than treason!

Corn. They are traitors,

Traitors to innocence and oppressed justice, That dare affirm the contrary.

Mar. Pray you temper
The violence of your passion. .

Corn. but express Your thankfulness for his so many . . . And labour that the Senate may restore him Unto his own; I'll die else.

Ant. Live long, madam,
To nobler and more profitable uses:
I am a falling structure, and desire not
Your honours should be buried in my ruins.
Let it suffice, my lord, you must not see
The sun, if, in the policy of state,
It is forbidden. With compassion

Of what a miserable king hath suffered, Preserve me in your memory.

Flam. You stand as

This sorcerer had bewitched you.—Drag him to His oar, and let his weighty chains be doubled.

Mar. For my sake, let the poor man have what favour You can afford him.

Flam. Sir, you must excuse me.—You have abused the liberty I gave you;

[To Antiochus.

But, villain, you pay dear for't.—I will trust The execution of his punishment To no man but myself; his cries and groans Shall be my hourly music. So, my lord, I take my leave abruptly.

Corn. May all plagues,

That ever followed tyranny, pursue thee!

Mar. Pray you stay a little.

Flam. On no terms.

Mar. Yield so much

To my entreaties.

Flam. Not a minute, for

y Your government!

Mar. I will not purchase, sir, Your company at such a rate; and yet Must take the boldness upon me to tell you You must and shall stay.

Flam. How!

Mar. Nay, what is more,

As a prisoner, not a guest. Look not so high; I'll humble your proud thoughts.

Flam. You dare not do this

Without authority.

Mar. You shall find I have
Sufficient warrant, with detaining you,
To take this man into my custody.—
Though 'tis not in my power, whate'er you are,

To do you further favour, I thus free you Out of this devil's paws.

Ant. I take it as

A lessening of my torments.

Flam. You shall answer

This in another place.

Mar. But you shall here

Yield an account without appeal for what

You have already done. You may peruse

[Hands him a letter.

Shake you already? Do you find I have Call in the Asian merchants.

Enter 2nd and 3rd Merchants and Guards.

. now to be hanged

. him that pities thee

. . . . cusers

. . . die and will prove that you took brites
Of the Carthaginian merchants, to detain
Their lawful prize; and, for your sordid ends,
Abused the trust, committed by the state,
To right their vassals. The wise Senate, as
They will reward your good and faithful service,
Cannot, in justice, without punishment
Pass o'er your ill. Guiltiness makes you dumb;
But, till that I have leisure, and you find
Your tongue, to prison with him.

Flam. I prove too late, As Heaven is merciful, man's cruelty Never escapes unpunished.

[Exeunt Guards with FLAMINIUS.

Ant. How a smile

Labours to break forth from me! But what is Rome's pleasure shall be done with me.

Mar. Pray you think, sir,

A Roman, not your constant friend, that tells you

You are confined unto the Gyaræ¹ With a strong guard upon you.

Re-enter Guard.

Ant. Then 'tis easy
To prophesy I have not long to live,
Though the manner how I shall die is uncertain.
Nay, weep not: since 'tis not in you to help me,
These showers of tears are fruitless. May my story
Teach potentates humility, and instruct
Proud monarchs, though they govern human things,
A greater power does raise, or pull down, kings!

[Flourish. Exeunt.



The end of epilogues is to inquire
The censure² of the play, or to desire
Pardon for what's amiss. In his intent
The maker vows that he is innocent;
And, for me and my fellows, I protest,
And you may believe me, we have done our best;
And reason too we should: but whether you
Conceive we have with care discharged what's due
Rests yet in supposition; you may
If you please resolve us. If our fate this day
Prove prosperous, and you too vouchsafe to give
Some sign your pleasure is this work shall live,
We will find out new ways for your delight,
And, to our power, ne'er fail to do you right.

¹ A penal settlement in the Ægean Sea.
2 Judgment.



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